



THE INDEPENDENT

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**Why the old
need you**

CHRISTMAS APPEAL FRONT



FEATURES PAGE

**How to be a hit
this Christmas**

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IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW + DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

After 36 years, Hanratty is set to be cleared



Hanratty: Executed for the 'A6 murder'

JAMES HANRATTY, hanged more than 36 years ago for murder and rape, is likely to be cleared after what is believed to be a serious miscarriage of justice.

Hanratty, 25, was executed for the so-called 'A6 murder' in one of the most infamous crimes this century. It is understood that his case is to be referred to the Court of Appeal after a fresh investigation into the affair.

The inquiry into the 1961

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

murder is believed to have concluded that Hanratty should never have been brought to trial and that his conviction was part of a conspiracy, possibly including a police cover-up. He was convicted in 1962 of killing a married man before he raped the victim's lover and repeatedly shot her, leaving her paralysed for life.

The Criminal Cases Review

Commission is understood to have decided to refer his case to the Appeal Court - where the conviction is likely to be quashed - after an 18-month inquiry. In all cases so far referred by the commission, the conviction has been quashed or the sentence reduced by the Appeal Court.

As *The Independent* previously reported, civil servants at the Home Office had reached a similar conclusion in January 1997, but Michael Howard, who was then Home Secretary, de-

cided to sit on what was a potentially embarrassing decision and leave it to the newly formed commission.

Hanratty, a petty burglar, was convicted of abducting Michael Gregsten, 36, and his mistress Valerie Storie, 22, at gunpoint from a cornfield at Taplow, near Maidenhead in Berkshire, in August 1961. The lovers were forced to drive about 60 miles to a lay-by on the A6 near Bedford, known as Dead Man's Hill.

court. There was no scientific evidence.

The investigation by the commission has been headed by Baden Skitt, 57, a former Assistant Commissioner at the Metropolitan Police. Mr Skitt, whose findings were presented to a committee for the final decision, is understood to have concluded that the original investigation was deeply flawed and that much of the "evidence" should never have been used at trial. The commission

is expected to make a statement in the next few days.

Michael Hanratty, 59, the brother of James, said last night: "It's been a terrible struggle that has ruined a whole family. You can't explain how it has affected us - it's been devastating."

"The whole case has been a whitewash for years. There have been official inquiries in which people have bent over backwards to cover things up."

Pinochet is indicted on 2,700 counts

BY KIM SENGUPTA
AND ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

THE FORMAL criminal indictment of the former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet was presented yesterday in Spain, listing 2,700 victims of his military regime and accusing him of "diabolical" acts of mass murder, torture and terrorism.

The investigating judge Baltasar Garzon, seeking General Pinochet's extradition from Britain, also sought to have his assets frozen worldwide.

The fresh round of battles over the fate of the general comes after the historic decision by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, not to oppose his extradition to Spain, and the day before he is due to appear in an English court for the first time since his arrest two months ago.

The general's lawyers made an unprecedented appeal to the House of Lords, asking them to overturn its own ruling on the grounds of the alleged potential bias of one of the law lords.

Lord Hoffmann, who gave the casting vote in the ruling, is a director of a charity linked to Amnesty International, the human rights pressure group, and his wife works there as an administrative assistant. The pressure group represented victims of the Pinochet regime at the hearing and argued against him benefiting from immunity.

paign pledge. The promotion of human rights around the world is a noble cause and I commend your work in this area..."

Kinglsey Napley had itself made donations to Amnesty International, and a spokesman for the organisation stressed that neither Lord Hoffmann nor his wife had played any part in policy over General Pinochet.

The general's lawyers have already made representations to the Home Secretary about Lord Hoffmann. In his ruling on Wednesday Mr Straw, who had taken legal advice, dismissed the claims.

The Independent can reveal that in their submission to the Home Office, the general's lawyers stated: "Unbeknownst to the Senator at the time of the hearing, Lord Hoffmann (sic) is a married man whose wife, Gillian Steiner, is an employee and a member of Amnesty International.

"Had the Senator known of this connection, he would have objected to Lord Hoffmann sitting on the judicial Committee that heard his case. As it is, it is the submission of the Senator that the judgement of the Senate that the judgement of the House of Lords should not have been permitted to stand. Without the decision of Lord Hoffmann, the House of Lords would have been deadlocked".

They also produced a letter from William Hague, Leader of the Opposition, praising Amnesty International. In it, Mr Hague stated: "I would be delighted to endorse your cam-

Bank rate cuts fails to stem job losses

BY DIANE COYLE
AND ANDREW GRICE

THE BANK OF ENGLAND cut the cost of borrowing yesterday for the third time in three months.

The half-point cut, to 6.25 per cent, by the monetary policy committee (MPC) was followed almost immediately by news of lower mortgage rates which will mean a saving of around £20 a month on a typical £60,000 home loan. But savers - who outnumber borrowers by two to one - will lose out when savings rates are reduced in line.

Interest rates have now returned, in the space of three months, to their May 1997 level. But they remain more than twice as high as European

is because of the tough measures we've introduced ensuring that inflation is at a target of 2.5 per cent and cutting the national deficit by £20bn."

Kate Barker, chief economist at the CBI, said cut would give a welcome boost to spending in the Christmas season. But the announcement got a more half-hearted welcome from Roger Lyons of the MSF union, who said: "It will be a miserable new year for manufacturing."

Yesterday brought more bad news in industry, with Royal Doulton announcing the loss of 1,000 jobs.

Royal Doulton axe, page 7
City looks for more, page 18

Dirty protest marks Tate's Turner winner

BY CLARE GARNER

IT MAY be dung, but is it art? Ray Hutchins, an artist who launched a dramatic protest against this year's Turner Prize winner by dumping a wheelbarrow of cow dung on the steps of the Tate Gallery, clearly thought not.

Mr Hutchins delivered his protest after learning that the winner of this year's Turner Prize, Chris Ofili, had decorated his canvasses with elephant dung.

"I've been waiting to do this for years," he shouted, shovelling the muck out onto the entrance of the Tate, in London, where Mr Ofili's work is

trapped inside a ring of prison-bar candles.

The night before, Union flags were burnt in a noisy demonstration by Pinochet supporters near the Santiago residence of the British ambassador, Glynn Evans. One policeman was injured as they moved in with water cannon to disperse 200 or so demonstrators. At least 50 were arrested.

Although Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, has refused to make a judgement on the Home Secretary's decision, he came in for criticism from the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jesse Helms.

Mr Helms, a veteran conservative who has long supported right-wing governments in Latin America, said the decision would deter autocratic leaders from stepping aside peacefully and allowing a democratic government.

whole dislikes it. Dead sheep and cows are one thing, but the elephant dung was the final straw for me... A real artist who can paint should have won the Turner prize."

Mr Hutchins, 66, a professional illustrator of books, mugs and pottery, from Huntley, in Staffordshire, borrowed his materials from a neighbour's farm. But the effort of collecting the dung from the field landed him in hospital with a heart attack. His wife pleaded with him not to go to London - to no avail.

Mr Hutchins finally planted a placard in the excrement which read: "Modern art is a load of bullshit."

being exhibited. "It's time somebody made a stand against the idiocy of modern art. The general public on the

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

The fifty best wines for Christmas – from under a fiver to £20 a bottle

ANTHONY ROSE MAKES HIS SELECTION IN THE INFORMATION

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE McELVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGSTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTEM SMITH

Lockbie relatives meet Blair

By PAUL LASHMAR

BRITISH RELATIVES of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing met Tony Blair at Downing Street yesterday the first meeting between a Prime Minister and the families in the ten years since the disaster.

The 20 members of the UK Family Flight 103 group praised Mr Blair's handling of the hour-long meeting. "We were impressed by the openness, frankness and lack of secrecy," said Jim Swire. "This is something we did not find with the previous administration."

The meeting came just ten days before the 10th anniversary of the bombing in which 270 people died.

Diplomatic negotiations are continuing to persuade Libya to hand over two accused former intelligence agents for trial in the Hague under Scottish Law.



Jim Swire (left) who lost his daughter, and Michael Tager, who lost his son, outside Downing Street Tom Craig

Germany ups the stakes in rebate row

BY STEPHEN CASTLE IN Vienna AND ANDREW GRICE

TONY BLAIR softened his language over Britain's £2 billion annual budget rebate yesterday as Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, raised the stakes in the battle over the funding of the EU.

On the eve of a summit of the EU leaders in Vienna, Mr Schröder warned that without a sharp reduction in Germany's £7.8bn contribution to the EU, the German people would lose faith in the European project. "Europe's problems cannot be solved with a German cheque book," he added.

the Government," he said.

Last night Downing Street denied any change of policy on Britain's contributions and insisted Mr Blair would not give any ground during the Vienna summit. However, the Prime Minister's more conciliatory language reflected his concern that the Government needed to adopt a more positive approach to EU negotiations after the rows over demands for a common tax policy. Mr Blair is worried that repeated threats by Britain to wield its veto could prove counterproductive.

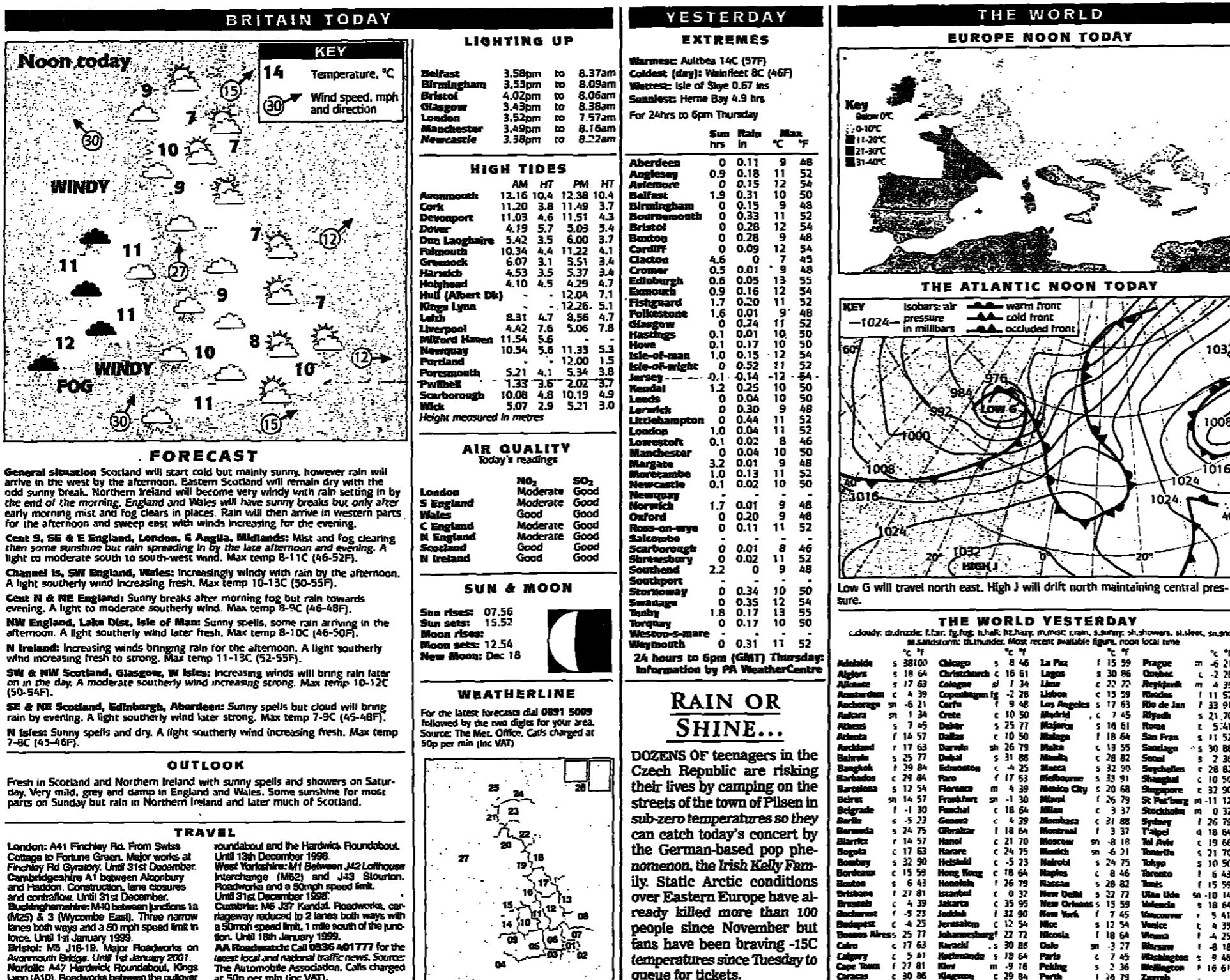
Mr Schröder's intervention, made before he arrived in Vienna, is likely to set the tone for the two-day event ending tomorrow. His speech to the Bundestag argued: "Without justice regarding contributions the people in our nations will rather move away from Europe than support it."

In another unwelcome development for Mr Blair, the Austrian Chancellor, Viktor Klima, who will chair the Vienna meeting, said its "central theme will be co-ordinated economic policy". In an interview with Der Standard newspaper he argued that a "common currency requires common fiscal policy; co-ordinated budget policy and co-ordinated general economic policy. That is an economic imperative." Austria officials said the Vienna summit was likely to produce little more than skirmishes over the reform of the EU's finances, which is supposed to be resolved at the next summit in March under the German presidency.

"Germany, Austria, other countries have got a problem on their net contributions. Now they will obviously argue their position strongly". Giles Radice, a pro-EU Labour MP and chairman of the Commons Treasury Select Committee, went further than Mr Blair by suggesting Britain might be flexible over the rebate. He told BBC Radio: "Of course the UK would be prepared to discuss its rebate if there was reform of the CAP. The reason why we are in such a difficult position as regards contributions is of course that the CAP doesn't help us at all."

Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said Mr Radice's "startling admission" suggested the Prime Minister might not be prepared to stand as firm on Britain's hard-won rebate as he claimed. "There must be no slippage from

"We do not expect everyone to put all their cards on the table until a minute before midnight," an Austrian official said.



THE VIENNA AGENDA

Reform of EU finances, including the CAP. This opens the Pandora's box of national contributions to the Brussels budget, and the sacrosanct British rebate.

European Defence. Britain and France are proposing a European defence identity. But will the neutrals go along, and what happens to the Western European Union?

Trade with South Africa. Six months ago, Nelson Mandela was hailed at the Cardiff summit as a hero for the ages, but Europe balks at concessions on imports of South African wine.

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'The challenge is to grasp and shape history as we bury our past grievances'

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

JOHN HUME and David Trimble, visionary Irish nationalist and pragmatic Ulster Unionist, stood together yesterday on an Oslo stage to receive the world's supreme international honour; as joint recipients of the Nobel peace prize.

The two men, so far apart in politics and so often at odds in the peace process, were brought together by a shared accolade which the Nobel committee plainly hopes will strengthen that process.

Back home in Belfast, their two parties, the SDLP and Ulster Unionists, bickered on about the mundanities of politics – yesterday's issue being a cross-border agriculture committee. But in the Norwegian capital, the ceremony – broadcast live in Northern Ireland – projected an aspiration that the peace process could eventually deliver something glorious.

The chairman of the Nobel committee, Francis Sejersted, indicated in his speech that the panel did not naively assume that all violence had ended. But he declared: "The vicious circle has been broken. The peace process has built up a momentum of its own which makes a return to earlier conditions of terror unlikely, although we must be prepared for minor setbacks as the process continues."

Mr Sejersted, displaying a detailed knowledge of Northern Ireland politics, said of the prize-winners: "More than anyone else, Mr Hume is the architect behind the peace process and the solution chosen in the Good Friday Agreement."

"He has had to swallow sometimes very harsh criticism from within his own ranks as well as from others. He has stood firm and his policy has won through."

Of the Unionist leader he said: "Mr Trimble was a relative newcomer to top-level politics. He was known as an uncompromising Unionist but soon showed that he had other political sides to him, and clearly



John Hume (left) and David Trimble waving to well-wishers during a candlelit peace vigil following yesterday's Nobel peace prize ceremony in Oslo Dylan Martinez

felt that his situation demanded more flexible attitudes on the part of Unionists.

"Under his leadership enough fear and suspicion was overcome to enable a majority of Unionists to rally behind the Good Friday Agreement."

Mr Sejersted repeated the words of the peace talks chairman, George Mitchell: "Without Mr Hume there would have been no peace process; without

Mr Trimble there would have been no agreement."

The politicians had previously held a private meeting with the King and Queen of Norway and attended a parade staged in their honour by 5,000 children.

Although it was a day for emphasising their common goal of the pursuit of peace, the acceptance speeches of the two men vividly illustrated the

hugely different mind-sets of nationalism and Unionism. Mr Hume metaphorically reached for the skies; Mr Trimble brought things back to earth.

The SDLP leader referred to "many moments of deep depression and outright horror", but went on to declare: "The challenge now is to grasp and shape history – to show that past grievances and injustices

can give way to a new generosity of spirit and action. Bloodshed for political change prevents the only change that truly matters – in the human heart." He spoke of Europe, of vision, of reconciliation, of radical departures, of infinite possibilities.

He spoke of dark forces and the dark side of human nature, using the words "dark" or "darker" eight times.

Six times he reminded his audience that human nature was flawed; 14 times he

spoke of fascists, terrorists and fanatics.

"Some critics complain that I lack the vision thing," he declared, "but vision in its pure meaning is clear sight. That does not mean I have no dreams – I do – but I try to have them at night." And bringing the Nobel occasion to the level of current political controversy, he went on to stipulate once more that republicans had to

decommission arms to demonstrate they had left terrorism and fanaticism behind.

Unless the IRA quickly began to decommission, he said, there would be "dark doubts about whether Sinn Fein are drinking from the clear stream of democracy or are still drinking from the dark stream of fascism – it cannot for ever face both ways".

His words represented an implicit challenge to the idea of inclusion which both Mr Hume and Mr Sejersted had commended. Irish republicanism might, he seemed to say, prove to be an evil force which should be excluded rather than brought in to the political system.

Having sketched in this sombre background, he promised to persevere with the Good Friday Agreement, but insisted he would move steadily rather than recklessly: "We will go on all the better if we walk rather than run." This will be viewed as a sign that he intends to continue at a pace which nationalists, and it appears Tony Blair, regard as exasperatingly slow.

The differences between the Hume and Trimble approaches, so starkly exposed, may have caused some in the audience to wonder how the peace process had managed to proceed so far. Next week, the two men will be back in the political trenches in Belfast, going over the familiar difficulties and tackling work that Mr Trimble yesterday described as "grubby and without glamour".

A pre-Christmas breakthrough on the details of new Belfast and cross-border institutions is, for the moment, the limit of most politicians' ambitions. But breakthrough or not, the decommissioning issue will still be there when they reconvene in the new year.

Yesterday was not, however, a day for dwelling on the myriad difficulties ahead. Rather it was one of international acknowledgement of how many obstacles have been successfully surmounted, and of how much has already been achieved against such daunting odds.

Last time round, peace seemed a hopeless cause

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

YESTERDAY'S ceremony did not mark the first time that the Nobel peace prize has been awarded to those who have tried to end the violence in Ulster.

Twenty-one years ago, Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan, co-founders of Peace People, received the Nobel peace prize in recognition of their valiant attempts to organise public rallies that could help bring an end to the nightmare.

But there is a world of difference between 1977 and 1998. Williams and Corrigan were awarded the prize for their courage in fighting what seemed to be an unwinnable battle. Like the elected but banned Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi – who was awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1991 – the prize was awarded for valour, not for victory.

Peace People was born of tragedy: Mairead Corrigan lost a niece and two nephews, mown down by a car after an IRA driver was shot; Betty Williams, whose father was a Protestant and father a Catholic, witnessed the accident. The two women joined



Mairead Corrigan (left) and Betty Williams, whose peace rallies in Ulster won them the Nobel prize jointly in 1977

forces to work against the culture of violence. The peace rallies attracted thousands, even then. Williams declared: "Let all women encourage men to have the courage not to turn up for war." The Nobel committee's citation argued: "Their initiative paved the way for the strong resistance against violence and misuse of power, which was present in broad circles of people. But, despite some popular sup-

port, Corrigan and Williams were still voices in a political wilderness. After almost a decade of violence, the distrust and hatred were stronger than the yearning for an end to violence. Powerful forces on both sides were unhappy at the very existence of the Peace People. The IRA threatened them; Ian Paisley scorned them. Now, the IRA has itself called off the terrorist dogs, and Paisley is

isolated as never before. John Hume, by contrast – uniquely steadfast in his commitment to tolerance in the past three decades – was isolated when the Peace People were active. Now the peacemakers stand centre stage, while the intolerant have been pushed to one side.

Corrigan and Williams later fell out with each other – in 1986, ten years after the founding of the Peace People, a television documentary tried to bring them together again. They refused: by that stage, the rift between the two women was too serious. None the less, the 1977 prize can be seen as a kind of warm-up for yesterday's award ceremony. Some of the worst atrocities took place in the years after the Peace People's first flurry of half-success. At the time, their attempts to change things seemed hopeless. In the meantime, however, the landscape has changed irrevocably.

Doomed gestures are not always as doomed as they seem, in the darkest moments. If things look bad in Ulster today – one only needs to look back twenty years, to get the gloom into perspective.

Sabotage at the opera house

THE ROYAL Opera House has become the latest high-profile construction project in London to be the victim of sabotage. It was revealed yesterday.

Mystery saboteurs struck at the £210m redevelopment at Covent Garden, damaging the scheme's fire protection system and forcing contractors to lose at least a day's building work.

The incident forced the site's closure and has sparked an internal investigation by the construction management firm Schal which said that tight se-

curity meant that it was unlikely to have been an outsider that carried out the vandalism.

The attack, to cabling that forms part of the fire safety equipment, comes after last month's suspected sabotage on the Jubilee Line extension to the London underground – a project already delayed – which cost an estimated £100,000 of damage. Again this was damage to essential cables, although the attacks are not thought to be related. The Ju-

bilee Line extension, which is a key component for travelling to the Millennium Dome, is already bogged down by industrial disputes and wildcat strikes by electricians working on the project.

News of the Royal Opera House sabotage, which happened last week, features in today's issue of the trade magazine Building. The deputy editor, Giles Barrie, said in September 150 electricians walked out for two days, complaining that the 700 workers on the site had just eight functioning toilets and only a single canteen area which houses 72 men.

to the deadline the more bargaining power workers, especially specialists like electricians who cannot be replaced, will have."

In August, Schal, which has not called in the police, admitted problems with the Royal Opera House's fly tower, blaming the contractor Bison. And in September 150 electricians walked out for two days, complaining that the 700 workers on the site had just eight functioning toilets and only a single canteen area which houses 72 men.

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'Monsters' back in Chile's stadium

A QUARTER of a century after its most infamous days - under the rule of General Augusto Pinochet - Santiago's national sports stadium was back under the watchful eye of grim-faced Chilean police last night.

But it was a far cry from the era of torture, executions and disappearances which began when Pinochet opponents were herded into the stadium in 1973.

This time, the place was packed with Chileans from both sides of the political and Pinochet spectrum, united in their love of heavy metal at the long-awaited "Monsters of Rock" concert of leading international bands.

Still, the former dictator's shadow hung over the stadium. The main attraction, the British group Iron Maiden, did not show up following Foreign Office advice against trips to Chile during the Pinochet crisis.

Earlier in the day, relatives of some of those who were killed or disappeared after being taken to the stadium, waved the British flag and praised the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, at an anti-Pinochet demonstration in front of the Moneda palace. This is the building Pinochet attacked in 1973 to oust Salvador Allende, Chile's Marxist president.

Carrying photographs of their dead or missing loved ones, the 100 or so relatives - mostly middle-aged and elderly women - read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and said it was appropriate that Mr Straw had made his extradition decision almost

BY PHIL DAVISON
in Santiago



President Eduardo Frei:
Wants Pinochet returned

exactly 50 years to the day after the Declaration was made.

"Frei is a worm," some shouted, referring to President Eduardo Frei's efforts to secure Pinochet's return to Chile. A small delegation was allowed to hand into the palace a letter to Mr Frei calling for a new constitution to replace the one drawn up by Pinochet in 1980 during his 1973-1990 dictatorship. That one guaranteed him a lifetime seat in the Senate.

They then distributed cartoon leaflets with the caption, "50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights," and showing a tiny Pinochet on the top of a birthday cake, trapped by a ring of prison bar-like canes.

The night before, British flags were not waved but set

alight during a rowdy demonstration by Pinochet supporters close to the Santiago residence of the British ambassador, Glynn Evans. One policeman was injured as officers moved in with water cannons to disperse 200 or so demonstrators. At least 50 were arrested.

While the former dictator makes a first appearance at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court today, Chile's National Security Council - largely a relic of his military regime - will hold a crisis meeting to discuss the government's next course. The council comprises the President, the army, air force and navy chiefs, the chief of police and the chairman of the Senate and the Supreme Court.

The army - still commanded by Pinochet until earlier this year and still strongly behind him - issued a tough statement calling Mr Straw's decision "abusive and humiliating". Such remarks always resurrect the spectre of a coup, but senior army officers, although critical of Mr Frei for not taking a more aggressive stance against Britain, insisted they would adhere to the constitution.

Friends of Pinochet said he planned to release a "political testament" which, rather than defending "the biological Pinochet," would "zero in on his legacy: his work in saving the nation". The friends suggested that his family and supporters were now realising that he would not be coming home soon. His entire family was now assembling to be with him in England, they said. A Chilean

military aircraft - which had been on standby for some weeks at RAF Brize Norton, ready to take him home - had returned to Chile without him.

All of which left Chile in a state of limbo yesterday, but not the tension many had expected after Mr Straw's decision.

The realisation that his case, which is likely to involve a string of appeals, could drag on for months, if not years, has dampened passions somewhat for the time being.

But the British embassy continued to be on a state of alert, and said the Foreign Office no-

tice advising Britons against visiting Chile remained in place.

The only thing anywhere near an anti-British attack this week was the pickpocketing of a senior British diplomat. Police believe that the thief did not know the nationality of the man

whose wallet he snatched from a jacket.

While passions were largely under control, the rhetoric continued.

Hernan Brines, president of the Pinochet Foundation, condemned Britain for "continuing its colonial spirit against a

small Latin American nation."

On the lighter side, a reader wrote to the daily newspaper *El Mercurio*: "This Pinochet-England thing is as ridiculous as an English hobby showing up in Chile and giving me a ticket for driving on the right-hand side of the road."

At a rally in Santiago yesterday, a woman from an organisation of 'disappeared' Chileans celebrates the British decision. Ricardo Mazalan

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICARDO MAZALAN FOR THE INDEPENDENT

Video shows hostage spy 'confession'

THE DEATHS of the Western hostages in Chechnya took a new twist yesterday with the discovery of a video in which one of the men said he and the others had been spying for British intelligence.

Chechen officials who had seen the tape said it was apparent the man had been forced into making the "confession". Their employers and the Foreign Office said there was no truth in the claims and their relatives said the video "added to their revulsion".

The Independent has learnt the identity of the man believed to have kidnapped and killed the four engineers. Sources in the Chechen capital, Grozny, said security forces were hunting Arbi Barayev, a young Islamic extremist linked to previous kidnappings.

The video was shown yesterday by the Chechen Vice-President, Vakha Arsanov, who said it was found on Wednesday, the day after the severed heads of the engineers were found on a road 40 miles from Grozny. Local journalists watched the video but Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen President, later refused to release it.

On the clip the men identify themselves as the three Britons, Rudolf Petschi, Darren Hickey and Peter Kennedy, and the New Zealander Stanley Shaw. Mr Kennedy then says in Russian: "We have been recruited by the English intelligence service. We installed a satellite aerial so that all phone conversations on Chechen territory were heard by German, English and Israeli special services and the CIA." He also said

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
and PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

he had installed equipment to spy on Chechen military camps and bases.

Mr Arsanov refused to say where they found the video but added: "They must have been forced to confess. But we do not know yet. We will have to check this information."

In London a Foreign Office spokesman said of the video: "It's complete rubbish. You will recall that they were trying to claim Jon James and Camilla Carr [aid workers held hostage for 14 months] were also accused of being spies." Granger Telecom and British Telecom, the men's employers, also denied they had links to the intelligence services.

The British ambassador in Moscow, Sir Andrew Wood, said: "We don't comment on these things in general. But any reasonable analysis would show that we have no wish to spy on Chechen territory."

Eamon Hickey, Darren's father, said: "They went ... to install ... telephone equipment with the support of the Chechen authorities. These confessions have obviously been forced out of them after they have been threatened."

Ministry of Defence defence said that Mr Petschi, fluent in several East European languages, had spent 20 years in the Royal Signal Corps. The ministry said he did not have an intelligence background.

The disclosure that security forces are hunting Mr Barayev, a ruthless former Chechen separatist commander, again raised the likelihood that the kidnapping was political. Mr Barayev in his 20s is a Wahabi Islamic fundamentalist whose group has strong ties to Saudi Arabia and who has long been opposed to the secular Mr Maskhadov.

He is believed to be involved in the kidnapping of Mr James and Ms Carr.

He came under suspicion when the engineers were first seized, not least because an injured kidnapper reportedly turned himself in at a hospital at Urus-Martan, 20 miles from Grozny and which is a known stronghold of Mr Barayev. Reports in recent weeks said he had been shot, but survived.

The rise of Wahabism in the north Caucasus become an issue of profound concern to the Chechen government, and Moscow, which has yet to recognise Chechnya's independence.

Peter Kennedy: Videoed making confession

Eco-warriors dig in to defy bailiffs

BAILIFFS continued their efforts yesterday to dislodge protesters from a network of tunnels under the proposed route of the Birmingham Northern Relief Road, just as the Government confirmed start dates for several new road-building projects.

Environmental activists have constructed tunnels with concrete-enforced entrances beneath Moneymore Cottages, on the edge of the motorway route near the village of Weeford, Staffordshire.

Bailiffs working for county of officials brought one protester out of a tunnel after a struggle yesterday. But up to 10 more were still believed to be underground. Efforts were continuing to dislodge them.

The planned £400m, 27-mile motorway - intended to link the M6 at Coleshill with the M6 at Cannock - has been described as unnecessary and a blight on the environment by a coalition of residents and eco-warriors. Protesters include "Muppet Dave" and other veterans of campaigns at Manchester Airport and Newbury bypass. The

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
and PHIL THORNTON

current battle follows an 11-year saga since the road was first proposed. A public inquiry in 1994 and 1995 - the longest held to date in a road scheme - eventually gave the go-ahead.

Environmental groups reacted angrily yesterday as the Government confirmed starting dates for 24 roads and details of the next stage of 13 more projects, including five to be built under private-public partnerships. The schemes were all listed in the Government's roads review in the summer.

Lord Whitty, the Roads Minister, said the announcement of firm dates allowed the Government to "clarify matters for all concerned". He added: "This is a realistic, achievable programme which we are committed to taking forward, and which reflects our new integrated approach to transport."

Roger Higman, transport spokesman for the environmental group Friends of the Earth, said road-building was an "expensive, destructive and

ultimately self-defeating way of dealing with traffic problems". He added: "Instead of wasting money on these projects, the Government should invest in traffic management, bus priority and cycle schemes, which provide far more relief for far less money."

Lynn Sloman, of the Transport 2000 campaign group, said: "There are some [schemes] that are clearly not appropriate, where there is local concern and where the full range of alternatives has not been explored." The most unpopular schemes included Bingley relief road in West Yorkshire, the A27 Polegate bypass in East Sussex and the A120 Stansted-to-Braintree road in Essex.

The Birmingham Northern Relief Road, currently the subject of protest, is being built and will be run by Midlands Expressway, a joint venture between the Norwegian firm, Kvaerner, and Autostrade, which runs Italian toll roads. Motorists will be charged £2.50 to use the highway, an alternative and - in theory - less congested route to the M6.

London to get a new paper

A NEW daily newspaper for London, to be given away free to Underground passengers, is to be launched soon.

Associated Newspapers, which publishes the *Daily Mail* and London's *Evening Standard*, confirmed yesterday that it planned to launch the paper "in the New Year". The publishing group is thought to be close to a deal with London Underground to distribute the paper at tube stations.

The journal will compete with other national newspapers. "It's essentially a defensive move, but we would rather we did it than anyone else," said Peter Williams, finance director of Daily Mail & General Trust, Associated's holding company. "The effect on the other morning newspapers will be quite interesting."

It is understood that other publishers had been con-

templating launching similar products.

Mr Williams said the new paper was based on a model which had been used before in other countries.

He declined to confirm the launch budget, which is rumoured to be about £2m. However he said the figure was "not significant" in the context of the group. "We're not doing this to lose money," he added.

Yesterday, Daily Mail & General Trust reported a pre-tax profit of £188.6m for the year to September - a 30 per cent increase.

However, media analysts questioned the sense of launching a new title in a crowded market at a time when advertising sales are beginning to come under pressure.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

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Chris Dunkley (left), former presenter of 'Feedback', and James Boyle, Radio 4 network controller, who has attracted a lot of criticism

BBC slated as control freaks

THE FORMER BBC presenter

CHRIS DUNKLEY

and PHIL MCCANN

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mentality. In the past the BBC

was much more willing to enter into debate. Now they

perpetually attempt to sideline the criticism as the bleating of an unrepresentative minority ... Nobody has explained anything to me about my sacking and, in the absence of a clear explanation, I have to wonder:

Mr Dunkley said: "The BBC is much more centralised these days and Radio 4 is the prime example. Control freakery is the phrase at the back of my mind and *Feedback* does not fit into the control-freak

time to listeners' letters. The rest, I'm told, will be telling people what the BBC does - that ... sounds like a thinly disguised PR job for the BBC. One just wonders to what extent it will be effective as an outlet for continued criticism."

Producers denied the new *Feedback* will be soft. It will last half an hour instead of the present 15 minutes and go out on Friday afternoons after *The World at One*. The BBC is trying to persuade Roger Bolton, who presents Channel 4's *Right to Reply*, to take over

A Radio 4 spokeswoman said: "If we really were control freaks we would move the show to late at night, not to one of our highest listening spots and double it in length."

It has been another testing week in a trying year for Radio 4. Mr Dunkley's departure coincided with the sacking of Russell Davies, presenter of *Talking Pictures*, and the resignation of Robin Lustig after he failed to persuade executives to move back his weekly phone-in *The Exchange* to its original morning slot.

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St Michael

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Royal Doulton wields the jobs axe

AS ROYAL Doulton closes its main factories early for Christmas today, hundreds of its workers will be leaving for the last time. They have been told not to come back in the new year - the first victims of just over 1,000 jobs scrapped by Britain's second biggest china manufacturer, mostly in the Potteries region.

Like its rivals in Stoke-on-Trent, Royal Doulton has been hard hit by the combination of high interest rates, a strong pound and the deep recession in the Far East. About half of what it makes is exported.

But the company, which has seen its borrowing soar and has huge quantities of unsold stock, blamed poor management for much of its troubles. "Royal Doulton has been slow to face up to the hard realities required to succeed as an international business," a company statement admitted yesterday. "It has too many products is overstocked, has over-invested in production capacity" at the expense of investing in marketing.

Such candour was of little comfort yesterday to Dave Farrell, 33, a forklift truck driver who was off work with a broken arm when he got a telephone call asking him to come to Royal Doulton's main factory in Burslem. When he got there he found he had been made redundant after 14 years with the company. His wife, Joanne, had also been laid off.

The couple and their two children now face an unhappy Christmas. "They must have known something was going on for the past six months," said Mr Farrell. "If they'd told us this a fortnight ago we wouldn't have spent as much as we have on Christmas." Some workers had had nothing to do for

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON
AND JOHN DAVISON

months, he added, but management had assured them they were safe.

Others blamed poor management for the job cuts. They attacked the company's decision to set up a factory in Indonesia, which opened last year. Yesterday, Royal Doulton said it was writing off £2m of the costs of that venture.

Goff Bagnall, general sec-

retary of the Ceramic and Allied Trades Union, said: "We have now got a situation where hundreds of our members are faced with a bleak Christmas and an even bleaker new year."

Declining union's mem-

bership figures years reflect the industry's troubles. In 10 years, numbers have fallen from 31,000 to 19,000. Yesterday's announcement may not be the end of the bad news. Other companies in the area were also in talks about finishing early for Christmas, said Mr Bagnall.

The company said the bulk of the job losses - a sixth of its British workforce - would be through compulsory redundancy. Half of the cut is already immediate, with the remainder by next summer. Most of the posts are in manufacturing, but others in administration and in some of the group's UK shops are also being eliminated. About 200 jobs are also expected to be lost overseas.

Stoke-on-Trent has been a pottery centre for hundreds of years. Josiah Wedgwood's factory, opened in 1759, established the area as the world's leading centre for mass-produced china. Today, some 20,000 people - about a fifth of the town's workforce - are still employed in the industry.

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Hellfire sermon on tobacco leaves House in difficulty

SOME ADDICTIONS last longer than others, it seems. Yesterday's session in Parliament was dominated by the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, in a hellfire sermon about the demon weed.

But it began with a tax history lesson in which Willie Ross, the Ulster Unionist Party MP for Londonderry East, pointed out, during a discussion of hypothecation, that income tax had originally been hypothecated too, after it was introduced in the 1890s for the express purpose of building battleships.

Tory backbenchers roared approvingly. It may have been, of course, that they were applauding

this pertinent footnote - a fair warning that ring-fenced taxes are rarely safe for long from those ravening wolves in the Treasury. But it sounded more like the nostalgic groan of a former 40-a-day man when someone describes the tarry delights of an unfettered Captain Battleship! God, weren't they marvellous? Gave them up long ago, you know, though it took a while. Had to wean myself off to fight crusaders first (barely like having a bathtime at all, to be honest) and then kicked the habit altogether.

Patricia Hewitt, the Labour MP for Leicester West, interrupted their happy memories of the days when you could buy 10 dreadnoughts and still have change out of 2m guineas, to venture a correction. She had always been under the impression that income tax had been introduced to pay for the Napoleonic wars.

Tory members faltered slightly. Should they be against Bonaparte or for him? Perhaps he counted as a proto-Pinochet, a military statesman whose detention counted as an unconscionable act of prejudice against strong leadership. On the other hand, hadn't he been a rather dogmatic advocate of European union, tax harmonisation and all?

The House staggered back to the

THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

day for the Opposition was the Paymaster-General, Geoffrey Robinson.

It looks as if Mr Robinson has already lost some of his civil servants; where other ministers come to the dispatch box with a neatly arranged ring binder, replies and witticisms colour-coded for instant reference, the Paymaster-General has only an untidy sheaf of crumpled papers. Perhaps his political troubles arise out of nothing more blameworthy than simple muddle. He didn't mean to sell that company to Mr Maxwell at all, just signed the wrong bit of paper by mistake.

Stephen Byers, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, described Mr Robinson as a "highly effective minister" and declared that he looked forward to working with him "for many months to come". Tory members jeered happily at the circumspection of this forecast. Mr Byers can bluff with the best of them, but he knew that "many years" would have been pushing it.

Then it was time for a breath of fresh air. Frank Dobson rose to read out an uncompromising statement on the evils of tobacco.

Most Tories found themselves in

some difficulty. Since smoking hits the poor and the dispossessed hardest you might argue that it's not just anti-social, but anti-socialist.

But it doesn't do to say this aloud and it has to be left to the true zealots of the free-market to man the barricades for the drug-dealers.

There is always one to oblige, and yesterday it was Eric Forth, the Conservative MP for Bromley and Chislehurst, asking the Health Secretary whether the loss of tax revenues had been taken into account. Never mind the fact that golden goose eggs are killing up to 120,000 taxpayers a year; that 24-carat bird must be protected.

Labour arms policy 'fails ethical test'

ARMS MANUFACTURERS are more likely to have their export licence applications approved by the Labour Government than under its predecessor, new figures have revealed.

The disclosure casts doubt on how much has changed under Labour's "more ethical" foreign policy, which was supposed to prevent arms exports to repressive regimes.

Less than 1 per cent of applications were turned down between August 1997 and August 1998, the Government disclosed in evidence to a House of Commons committee. The number of applications was running at almost the same rate as under the Conservatives.

The figures emerged as ministers faced criticism for their failure to implement the recommendations of the Scott report into the Arms to Iraq affair, which was completed nearly three years ago.

A report yesterday from the Trade and Industry Select Committee said there were "gaping holes" in Parliament's ability to hold ministers to account.

WEAPONS EXPORTS

By FRAN ABRAMS

Westminster Correspondent

cent. On average, there were 984 licence applications per month in the period before the election and 977 after.

Rachel Harford, of the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, said the figures confirmed the suspicion that there had been little change. "The present system is weighted heavily in favour of the military industry," she added.

Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, said there was a need for up-to-date legislation. "It is all the more necessary since the evidence seems to suggest that this Government is refusing a similar proportion of applications to its predecessor," he said.

A Foreign Office spokesman said looking at the proportion of licences refused was not a sensible way of measuring the implementation of the policy.

"The Government has kept in close contact with industry ... and British firms understand the new rules. You would not expect them to submit applications which they knew would be refused," he said.

The new figures on the proportion of arms export licences that are refused were given to the committee in evidence from the Department of Trade and Industry. Although they do not give a full picture of arms sales, they do give a first indication of what has happened since the general election.

In the year from August 1997, 11,723 individual arms licence applications were granted and 89 refused - 0.75 per cent. In the 10 months up to the general election in May 1997, 9,846 such licences were granted and 85 refused - 0.85 per

A United Nations group is needed to co-ordinate work to reduce the damage to coral reefs and oceans by global warming. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, told a meeting of experts on the world's oceans at a visit to the London Aquarium yesterday. Martin Godwin

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Cunningham rounds on Eurosceptic press

THE CLEAREST signal so far of Tony Blair's growing frustration with the Eurosceptic press in Britain emerged yesterday in an attack by Jack Cunningham on the "Europhobic prejudice" of the media.

Appointed Minister for the Cabinet Office - and dubbed Mr Blair's "Cabinet enforcer" - in the last reshuffle, Mr Cunningham is understood to have delivered his broadside at the British media with the support and backing of Downing Street.

His remarks, to a press gallery lunch at the Commons, raised further questions about the Government's relationship with *The Sun* and *The Times*, controlled by Rupert Murdoch, and the Conrad Black-owned *Daily Telegraph*, the newspapers that have led the claims of a threat to Britain's veto over tax harmonisation.

"Tony Blair came back from St Malo and read the press and thought something had to be done," said one insider.

Mr Cunningham warned that biased reporting of European affairs was threatening to undermine the Government's negotiations in Europe.

"We want a serious debate about Europe. Let's get some serious facts into the debate. What it fits with is the Euro-

phobic prejudice about what is happening in Europe," he said.

Everybody's second language in the European Union is English. They [British newspapers] are all widely read. Giving this impression not only of Britain being isolated but Britain being determined alone to defy the whole of the European Union is totally counter-productive," he told journalists.

"If we deliberately isolate ourselves we lose, we have no influence, we are left out of the decision," Mr Cunningham

said.

He said the Government was spending \$60m on the refurbishment of Whitehall buildings including Admiralty Arch and the Admiralty to house civil servants from the Cabinet Office, after a short lease for their offices in the Treasury building ended. The minister said he had his own pass to reach the Prime Minister's office from the Cabinet office in 30 seconds. Anyone suggesting he wanted to move to offices further away either had to have no understanding of politics or had to be "barmy", he said.

LORD LUCAS of Crudwell, a

Tory peer, launched his own "freelance" version of the Freedom of Information Bill, a key manifesto commitment,

after the Government delayed a draft version of its own legislation until next year. His measure received a formal first reading, but stands no chance of becoming law because of lack of parliamentary time.

THE HOUSE



Causes of crime

CHRIS MULLIN MP, the chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, urged the Government yesterday to focus its attention on "vulnerable young people" before they became criminals rather than "locking people up and picking up the pieces" when it was too late.

Freedom bill

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Information Bill, a key

manifesto commitment, after the Government delayed a draft version of its own legislation until next year. His measure received a formal first reading, but stands no chance of becoming law because of lack of parliamentary time.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

European law

THE EUROPEAN Commission is

considering the introduction of a common criminal justice system for Europe, contained in a

European Union research paper. Home Office

minister Kate Hoey said.

Just visiting

MORE THAN 3,500 foreign

nationals are behind bars in

England and Wales, Home Office minister George Howarth said. "On

September 30 1998, there were 3,545 sentenced

foreign nationals - 3,206

males and 339 females - in

prisons in England and Wales," he said.

personal press secretary, Gregor Mackay, will assume overall responsibility for all press and broadcasting activities.

Two former leading figures in the Social Democratic Party have been appointed to bring "fresh blood" to Tony Blair's inner circle.

Michael Ancram, the party chairman, announced that a director of media would bring together for the first time a single media voice for both the leader and the party.

A brand new policy unit will be created to assess every area of policy, with a strategy and campaigns unit and beefed-up media department.

Attempts to recruit a high-profile journalist to act as a Tony Blair's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, have been abandoned. Instead, Mr Hague's

Party Machinery

By PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

lure performance in the polls has been compounded by serious misjudgements in Mr Hague's inner circle.

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A brand new policy unit will be created to assess every area of policy, with a strategy and campaigns unit and beefed-up media department.

The moves follow concern by some MPs that the party's lack-

of-luck in the last election was due to a lack of political nous.

Mr Hague's team, which includes

former Labour MP David Owen

and former SDP leader

George Galloway, has been

reduced to a bare bones

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Freud's 'Naked Portrait with Reflection' - the artist's feet are visible at the top right of the picture

Freud's £2.8m portrait breaks European record

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A PORTRAIT by Britain's foremost figurative artist, Lucian Freud, has become the most expensive contemporary painting sold in Europe.

The painting, which shows a woman lying on the familiar brown sofa that features in so much of his work, sold at Sotheby's in London for £2,806,500 - more than double its expected price of £1.2m.

Freud's reputation as one of the biggest names of late 20th-century art was confirmed earlier this year when his *Large Interior, W1*, which featured members of his family, was sold at auction in New York for £3.5m - the highest price he has achieved so far.

Cheyenne Westphal, director of contemporary art at Sotheby's, said *Naked Portrait with Reflection* was one of Freud's best paintings and an excellent example of the artist's work.

"The pose of the woman is very typical and the brown sofa is one of his favourite props and he uses it again and again in his paintings," she said.

"He likes to work at night and his work tends to be lit by artificial light, as this is. But as far as we know this is the only painting where he has included himself by putting his feet in."

The portrait - painted in 1980 - was sold to anonymous buyer and Ms Westphal said bidding was fierce.

"There were four collectors still in at the £2m level and the price rose very quickly."

"We have seen an enormous increase in Freud's popularity this year with record prices set at the last three auctions of his work."

"He has global appeal and his work is collected around the world. To my mind, Freud is the best living figurative artist."

Married twice, he has had numerous lovers and an uncertain number of children, including the novelists Rose Boyl and Esther Freud and the fashion designer Bella Freud.

The previous European record for a contemporary work was £2.5m in April 1990 for *La Calipette*, a painting by French artist Jean Dubuffet.

The most expensive contemporary painting to be sold was a work entitled *Interchange* by Willem de Kooning, which fetched £12.9m at Sotheby's in New York in 1989.



Lucian Freud: 'Enormous increase in popularity'

Woman told to be a racist wins case

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

A WHITE woman who quit her new job as a vehicle hire receptionist after only two days because she objected to her employers' colour bar against black and Asian customers was a victim of racial discrimination in the workplace, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Three judges upheld earlier decisions that Veronica Sargent was constructively dismissed on racial grounds and was entitled to £5,000 compensation. They rejected the employer's argument that a white person could not be the victim of a policy that discriminated against other races. Lord Justice Swinton Thomas said that the intention of the Act was to deter racial discrimination.

Lord Justice Pill said that Ms Sargent was placed in "an outrageous and embarrassing position" when she was told the company had a "special policy regarding coloured and Asians".

The Cardiff company Weatherfield Ltd, then trading as Van & Truck Rentals, told Ms Sargent: "We have got to be careful who we hire the vehicles to. If you get a telephone call from any coloured or Asians you can usually tell them by the sound of their voice. You have to tell them there are no vehicles available."

A "stunned" Ms Sargent worked on the desk for two days in April 1996, but was so upset by the attempt that she decided she could not continue and walked out.

BT phone booths link to Internet

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

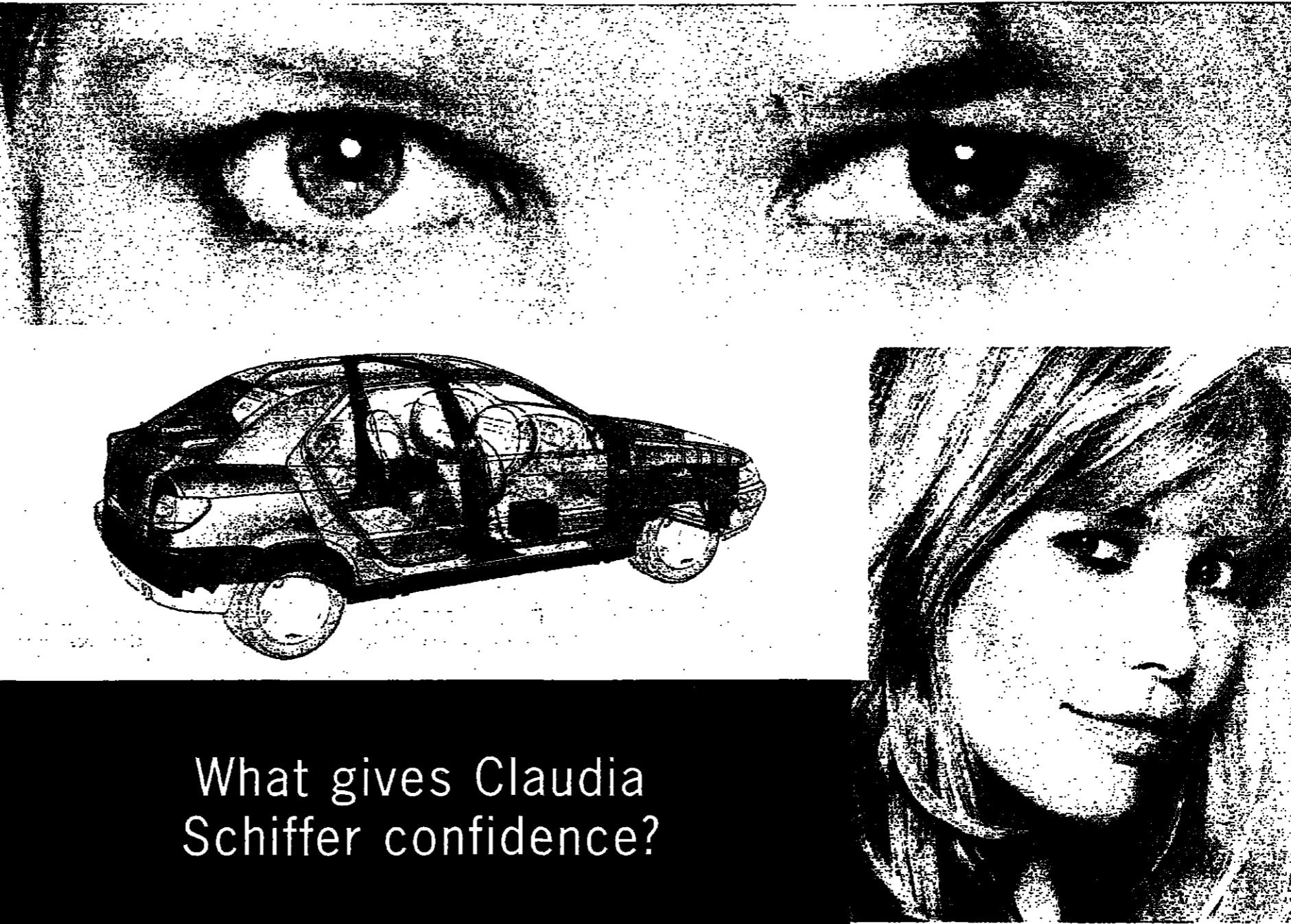
TELEPHONE BOOTHS from which you can surf the Web will appear on Britain's high streets from next March, in what British Telecom describes as an attempt to encourage an "online society".

The company is to set up 2,500 multimedia phone booths, equipped with a normal phone but also a 16in touch-sensitive screen in the centre of the unit. Using them, people will be able to pick a free e-mail address from BT, download or print their e-mail from many other internet accounts, and view websites on a pay-as-you-go basis using a phone or credit card.

The most likely venues for the first booths, which are now being tested to see how well they resist vandalism, are railway stations, motorway service stations and shopping malls. They will look much like ordinary BT phone booths but with a screen that turns on when the phone is picked up.

Instead of a keyboard, there will be pictures of keys on the screen, which can be typed on.

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The Boss regains control of his work

THE VENUE was packed and the crowd waited with bated breath but, when "The Boss" made his entrance, there was only a rustle of papers and a ripple of whispers.

Instead of the rock stadiums he is used to, a besotted Bruce Springsteen was appearing in the sombre environs of the High Court, where he learnt yesterday that he had won his fight against a company he accused of selling his music without copyright.

The American rock star, known worldwide since the Eighties as "The Boss", gave a modest smile when the judge granted him an injunction preventing Masquerade Music from releasing an album of his songs written 26 years ago.

He had claimed that he owned the copyright to the songs and Masquerade's attempt to claim ownership and release the recordings was an attack on his artistic integrity.

After the hearing, Mr Springsteen said: "I did not come here for the money. I came here for the music. The music that you release is the

years and which is why I am here today," he said.

Mr Springsteen was also awarded his £500,000 court costs against Masquerade and Mr Justice Ferris allowed him to seek damages of £2m against Robert Tringham, the man who ran the now defunct Flute International Ltd, who was also found to have infringed copyright of some of the songs. Flute, which was not pursued in the action because it is in compulsory liquidation, released the Springsteen songs on albums entitled *Unearthed* and *Unearthed II* in 1996.

Masquerade imported 75 copies of the CD *Before the Flame* last year and "threatened to release many further copies of this disc", the judge said.

Outside the courtroom, Mr Springsteen said he had come to defend his music and he would not hesitate to do so again. "It is something I have fought for since I was young, it is the music that you write alone with your guitar when you are sitting in your room late at night. It is one of the most personal things in your life."



Bruce Springsteen leaving the High Court after obtaining an injunction preventing the release of early recordings James Horton/PhotoneWS



The nematode's entire genetic layout has been unravelled

Worm's turn to aid human gene project

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

IT MAY be only a worm but to scientists it is a milestone in understanding the genetic causes of human cancer and ageing. Scientists have for the first time unravelled the entire genetic blueprint of an animal, a nematode, 1mm long and consisting of fewer than 1,000 cells.

Sequencing the genetic code of *Ceaeorhabditis elegans*, one of the simplest known multicellular organisms, is a landmark in the quest to unravel the genetic make-up of humans. Comparing the worm and human sequences enables scientists to identify common genes. They can use the worm to examine their function and to draw conclusions about the genetic causes of human disorders. The entire genetic code of the nematode contains 100 million letters and took an international team of scientists two decades and £15m to unravel. "It's all there; all the information to read a worm is in this sequence and we've got it," said John Sulston, director of the Sanger Centre in Cambridge, which spearheaded the British end of the project.

C elegans is important for medical researchers because it has tissue and organs similar to humans such as a gut, nerves, muscles and skin. Dr Sulston said: "It is a microcosm of humanity. Now we have a better understanding of how an animal is built we can get some way closer to knowing how the human body works."

A joint research team, funded

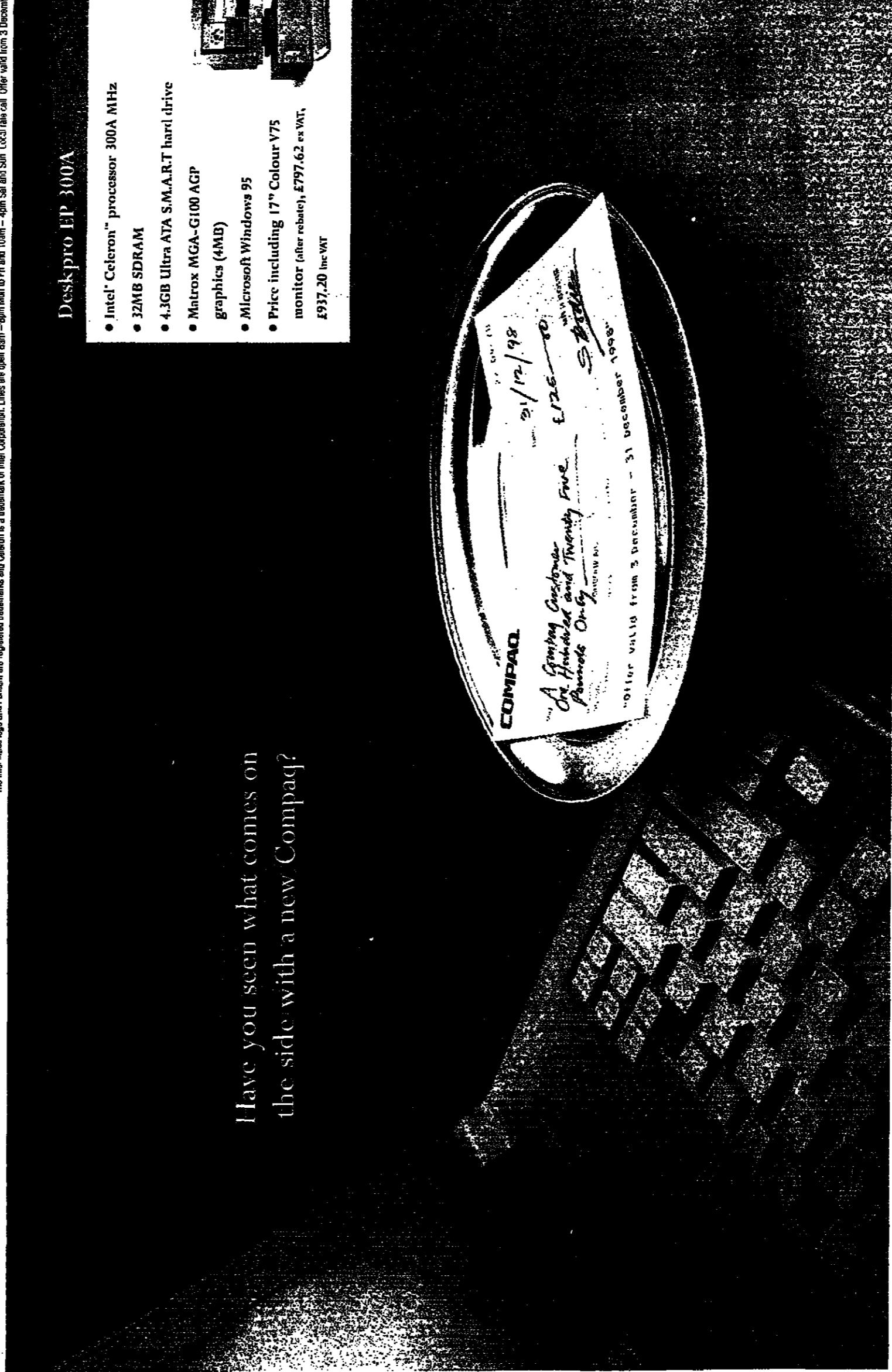
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Ministers in £100m 'war' on smoking

MORE THAN £100m will be spent in the next three years in a "war" against tobacco involving a two-pronged drive to help more smokers quit and ensure fewer Britons take up the habit. Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, announced yesterday.

The widely trailed White Paper *Smoking Kills* signals a large increase in anti-tobacco advertising, new "stop-smoking clinics" with free nicotine patches on offer to the poor and a ban on billboard tobacco advertising to be introduced in the current session of Parliament, which will take effect "as soon as practicable". A ban on tobacco advertising in the press may be imposed at the same time, subject to consultation. "Tobacco advertising is going to end and it is going to end soon," Mr Dobson told the Commons.

Ministers have sought to strike a balance between broad-based action against

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

what the Health Secretary said was the "principal avoidable cause of premature deaths in Britain" and "nannying" restrictions on individual liberty.

There is no ban on smoking in public places, but there is a voluntary agreement with the pub and hotel trade to increase no-smoking areas, backed by the threat of legislation if it does not work. A code of practice similar to the highway code is to be introduced to restrict smoking at work.

The British Institute of Innkeeping welcomed the "sensible" proposals last night and expressed no fears about following them. Mary Curnock Cook, the director, said research showed that providing no-smoking areas in pubs and restaurants was good for business. "The industry recognises this is an issue it has to tackle.

Dr Ian Bogle, the chairman,

one wants legislation that says you can't smoke in pubs," she said.

However, the British Medical Association described the failure to ban smoking in the workplace as "deeply disappointing" and criticised the White Paper for adopting a "more tentative and less courageous approach than doctors hoped for".

Dr Ian Bogle, the chairman,

said the White Paper betrayed an "excessive reliance on protocols, charters and codes of practice instead of firm regulation".

Clive Bates, director of the anti-smoking pressure group Ash, said a voluntary agreement that worked was preferable to a long political fight over legislation for a ban. "It is so much better to have co-

operation that makes progress, rather than both sides digging in for trench warfare."

Mr Dobson said measures would be introduced to curb tobacco sales to people under 16, with "stricter policing". Shopkeepers who persistently broke the law risked being banned from selling tobacco.

Advertising in shops will be minimal and vending machines

will be inaccessible to children. Young people will also be the subject of a three-year, £50m anti-smoking campaign. Currently, £3m is spent per year on such campaigns. The tobacco industry spends £28.7m on advertising each year.

Up to £6m will be spent on stop-smoking clinics, predominantly in deprived areas. The poor will be able to try replace-

ment therapy with a week's free supply of nicotine patches.

The success of the measures will be assessed against new targets for reducing smoking over the next decade from 13 per cent to 9 per cent of children, from 28 per cent to 24 per cent of adults and from 23 per cent to 15 per cent of pregnant women.

The Tobacco Manufactur-



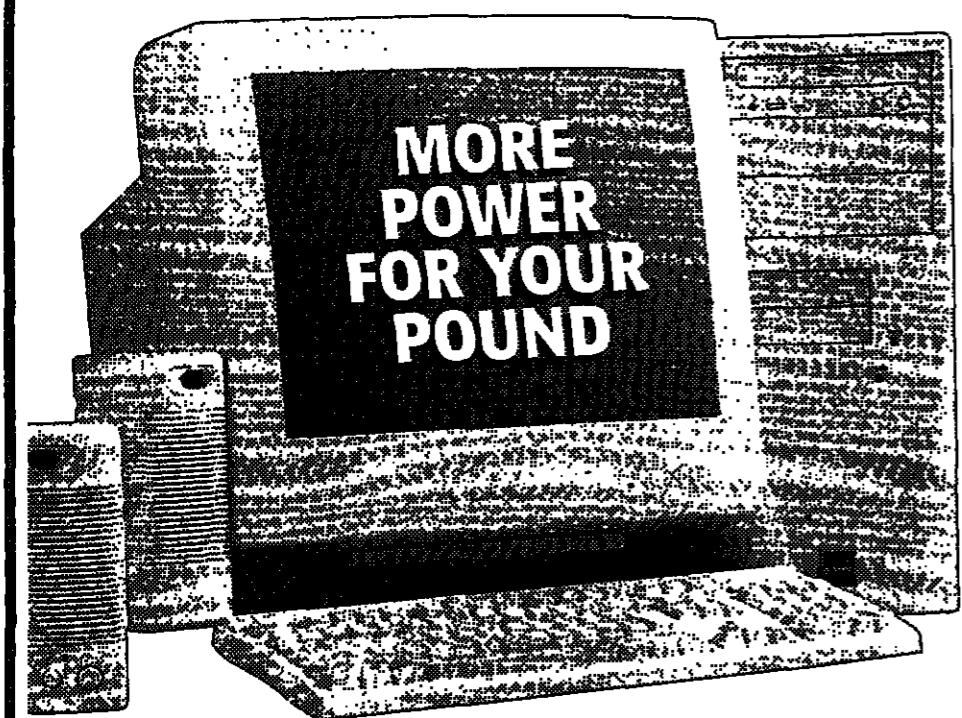
Health minister Tessa Jowell with anti-smoking contest winners at Our Lady of Victories school, Putney, London. Children are the focus of a £50m anti-tobacco drive

ers' Association condemned

the White Paper - with the exception of the measures aimed at children smoking - as "an affront to legitimate commercial and personal freedoms [which] reflect the unacceptable face of the nanny state".

■ Tessa Jowell, the Health minister, is to launch a new magazine for smokers trying to quit called *Stop!* next month.

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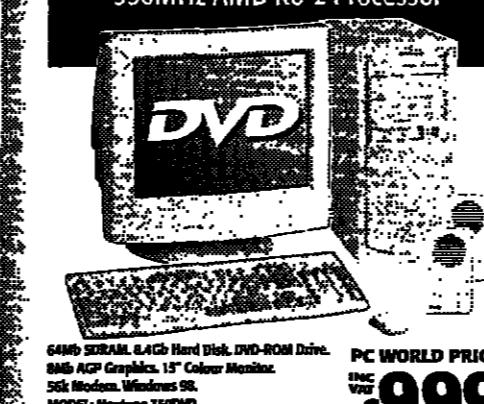
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Suspended GP 'unable to take blood pressure'

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

amination of Dr Haile's practice in July 1998, which was submitted to the GMC in September. The assessors found his performance was unacceptable or gave cause for concern in standards of clinical care, treatment of patients in emergencies, keeping up-to-date and working with colleagues or in teams. His physical examinations were frequently insufficient and he was unable to perform basic procedures such as giving injections.

"On the evidence available to them ... [the committee] consider he is unfit to practise," the GMC said yesterday. Dr Haile has the right to appeal.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA Council, said there was a need for robust systems to be in place locally to regulate quality of care and enable action to be taken against doctors who were simply not up to the job.

Concerns about Dr Haile were raised during his traineeship on a vocational scheme in Yorkshire and he was provided with extra training and monitoring. But despite efforts to help him, in November 1997 he was dismissed from his post and referred to the GMC.

Four assessors, three medical and one lay, made a full ex-

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IN BRIEF

Girl arrested over baby's death

A GIRL of 12 has been arrested by police over the death of a 16-month-old girl she was believed to have been baby-sitting. Police said the girl was questioned on Saturday and released on police bail. The baby died in a Manchester hospital on Monday. A post-mortem examination found the baby had a skull fracture.

IRA inmates to be sent to Ireland

FIVE IRA members serving long jail terms in England for terrorist offences, including attacks on Heathrow airport and other bombs in London, are to serve the remainder of their sentences in the Irish Republic. The transfer follows talks in London last month between Home Secretary Jack Straw and the Irish Justice Minister, John O'Donoghue.

Pilot misjudged aircraft's weight

THE TAIL of a holiday airliner carrying 300 passengers scraped along Manchester airport runway on landing in May because the captain had miscalculated the plane's weight, an accident report said yesterday. The plane was operated by Dublin's Aer Turas for Britannia Airways.

New Year strikes on Underground

London Underground is to be hit by 24-hour strikes between 11am on New Year's Eve and 11am on New Year's Day and again between 7pm on Sunday, 3 January and 7pm on 4 January in a dispute over job security.

STEVE RICHARDS

How long can Blair be a good European and refuse to cave in?

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW

PAGE 3

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Race relations 'damaged by outcry over asylum seekers'



PUBLIC HYSTERIA over a perceived threat to Britain from the recent influx of asylum seekers could cause lasting damage to race relations, charities said last night.

The warnings came as a hotel where a group of asylum seekers was housed confirmed yesterday it had been besieged with complaints from guests and the public.

The public hostility followed a front-page story in *The Sun*, headlined "inn-sane", which condemned the decision to allow 21 Romanian women and child refugees to spend a night in the hotel.

The refugees stayed at the £65-a-night Inn on the Lake, near Gravesend in Kent, after they were discovered among a group of 103 people packed into a goods lorry at the container terminal at Dartford.

The hotel, concerned by the effects of the bad publicity, is planning legal action against Kent County Council, which has moved the asylum seekers under police guard to a secret location. The male Romanians are being held in a detention centre.

Charities working with refugees said last night that animosity towards refugees had reached levels not witnessed in several years.

They blamed tabloid newspapers and immigration service officials for colluding in an anti-

By IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

immigrant campaign.

Sherman Carroll, of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, said: "There's no doubt that the general climate of fear and hatred they are trying to create against asylum seekers is having a negative effect on the rehabilitation of torture survivors."

The number of refugees heading for Britain appears to be on the increase.

The Immigration Service Union predicted yesterday that more asylum seekers than the previous annual record of 45,000 in 1995 would reach Britain this year.

With the Government's Immigration and Asylum Bill - promising a crackdown on immigration - only weeks away, a propaganda war is being waged between hard-pressed immigration officers concerned by the influx of economic migrants and groups that believe more sympathy should be shown to refugees.

Seizing on the debate, tabloid newspapers have run a series of articles complaining that "gypsies" and refugees have been allowed hospital treatment and "luxury" accommodation. The *Daily Mail* last week ran a front-page exposé of criminal activities undertaken by refugees under



The Inn on the Lake in Kent (top) where refugees enjoy an English breakfast (left) before being moved out after complaints Gary Stone

the headline "Brutal crimes of the asylum seekers".

Part of the difficulty for refugee charities is that many recent immigrants have arrived not from war-zones, but fleeing racial persecution.

The public sympathy that existed for the victims of conflict in Rwanda and Bosnia has not been so forthcoming for the gypsy immigrants from

Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Refugees from Eastern Europe are still outnumbered by those from Africa and the Middle East, but they have been painted as "economic migrants", casting doubts on the veracity of all asylum seekers.

Nick Hardwick, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said: "The reason we have an

obligation to these people is that in the Thirties, when the gypsies fled the Nazis, they were turned back at the borders and ended up in concentration camps. The international community said that it should never happen again."

Privately, refugee groups admit their cause is not helped by the increasingly common sight of gypsy immigrants beg-

ging on the streets of London.

Alasdair MacKenzie, the co-ordinator of Asylum Aid, predicted that public antipathy towards asylum seekers would grow as the Government pursued its policy of dispersing them to towns and cities around the country.

He said: "Local authorities are having to bear the costs, which leads to local papers

writing nasty pieces."

But John Tincey, of the Immigration Service Union, said yesterday that his colleagues were being overwhelmed.

He called for new reception centres to be created to give shelter to asylum seekers and said potential economic migrants could be dissuaded by preventing them from earning money in this country.

Accident trauma persists in young

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

MORE THAN 20,000 children involved in road accidents each year suffer post-traumatic stress disorder that is going largely unrecognised, researchers say.

The symptoms, which must last at least a month to qualify for the diagnosis, include nightmares, sleep disturbance, separation anxiety, intrusive thoughts and difficulty talking to parents and friends. One-third of the 70,000-plus young people under 19 involved in road accidents each year are thought to be affected.

The findings suggest that such victims are just as much in need of psychological help and support as those involved in bigger incidents and disasters, but are not getting it.

Doctors from the Royal United Hospital in Bath, who studied 119 people aged from 7 to 19 involved in road accidents last year found that they were much more likely to experience post-traumatic stress disorder than victims of sports injuries. The reaction was as severe in those who suffered minor injuries as in those seriously injured, suggesting that pre-existing psychological factors play a role.

Dr Paul Stallard and colleagues say in the *British Medical Journal* that there is increasing evidence that children are affected in a similar way to adults. The idea that children quickly get over traumatic events is no longer sustainable.

They found that girls were more prone to the disorder than boys and those affected suffered symptoms severe enough to interfere with their daily lives. Of the 119 children, 41 were affected compared with two out of 66 children who suffered sporting accidents.

However if counselling were offered, it would not necessarily be taken up. The researchers say they gave the family of each affected child a telephone number to contact if they wanted help but only two used it.

Woman, 62, jailed for poisoning neighbours

A WOMAN who tried to poison her elderly mother's next door neighbours was jailed for six years yesterday.

Jane Cronin-Simpson, 62, showed no emotion when she was sentenced at Bristol Crown Court by Judge Peter Thomas, who described her as a "potentially very dangerous lady".

Cronin-Simpson, who was appearing for sentence after being convicted in early November on three charges of causing a noxious substance to be administered, had refused to co-operate in a psychiatric assessment.

The court was told that Cronin-Simpson, of Yeovil, Somerset, drilled holes in the neighbour's walls and inserted piping to pour a mixture of petrol and chemicals into the house next-door.

By ALLAN SMITH

The judge, who jailed Cronin-Simpson for six years on each count, the sentences to run concurrently, said that what she had done was "exceptionally dangerous".

He had no alternative but to jail her because she refused the psychiatric assessment.

Judge Thomas said: "Because of her failure to co-operate with the medical assessments we had no option but to impose an immediate prison sentence."

He said it was fortunate that no ignition had taken place in the home of Julian Geard, his wife Joyce and their 18-year-old daughter Rosemary, who were living next door to Cronin-Simpson's elderly mother, also in Yeovil, at the time of the attack.



Cronin-Simpson: 'A very dangerous lady'

The court was told that Mr Geard had noticed a mixture dripping down the walls of his bathroom in December 1997.

He later went into his loft to find that four smoke bombs - designed to kill moles and rats - had been put in the roof space, causing charring of insulation materials.

Cronin-Simpson was arrested two days later and sectioned for some weeks under the Mental Health Act.

Malcolm Galloway, for the defence, said in mitigation that a psychiatrist who examined Cronin-Simpson in October could find no evidence of mental disorder.

While on remand in prison she had proved a model prisoner, he said, and fortunately no one was seriously injured by her attacks. Cronin-Simpson's 85-year-old mother is now in care.

MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH



WOULD IT be a good idea or a bad idea for Hollywood to make a film about the millennium bug? It probably depends who you are.

Earlier this year, Warner Bros bought the screenplay for a film tentatively titled Y2K (the acronym for "year 2000"). It was described by those who had seen the script as "something like Deep Impact" (in which a meteor hits the Earth), with the year 2000 in the background". Stu Zicherman, who wrote the screenplay, was justifiably excited at the deal: "In any movie, you're looking at a ticking clock, and this is the greatest ticking clock ever. It's one of the few deadlines in the history of the world you can't push back."

However, things have been a little quiet since, tempting some to suggest that Warner Bros has been leaned upon by Washington experts who do not want people

too worried about computers crashing everywhere. But some sources are suggesting that it is not conspiracy at all - and that Mr Zicherman was more correct than he realised.

The film executives have

realised that if the film was

released in the US in the au-

tumn of 1998, as planned,

then it would not reach its

other English-speaking

markets (such as Britain) for

another three or four

months - that is after its

watch-by date. A slightly

less time-dependent treat-

ment is now thought to be in

the works.

CHARLES ARTHUR

Curry colourings threaten health

BY NICK DRAINEY

One restaurateur said it was unnecessary to add colourings if food was prepared properly.

Mohammed Aslam, managing director of the Aagrah Group of restaurants, said: "I believe Indian cooking should be authentic. Tomato powder, red chillies and turmeric should give sufficient colour. Takeaways need educating not to use artificial colour excessively and customers should ask if they have been used."

Trading standards officers

who surveyed takeaways across Yorkshire found that 27 per cent of them served curries that contained more than the permitted amount of tartrazine (E102), sunset yellow (E110) or ponceau (E124). In the worst cases, levels were three or four times the legal limit.

Councillor Barry Midwood, chairman of West Yorkshire's trading standards committee, said: "I urge them to take heed of the warnings, otherwise some may face significant fines when this exercise is repeated."



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Civil war rips apart Le Pen's party



The National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, confronting a demonstrator while campaigning

JEAN-MARIE Le Pen's National Front imploded yesterday. The most successful far-right party in Western Europe, a baleful force on the French and European political landscape for 14 years, ceased to exist as a unified movement.

Amid vicious recrimination, in which Mr Le Pen accused one of his daughters of "familial betrayal", the NF broke into two mutually loathing factions, each claiming to be the true standard-bearer of the French ultra-right.

Ending weeks of clandestine civil war, Mr Le Pen, 70, finally moved directly against Bruno Mégrét, the increasingly powerful second force in the Front. He suspended him from his job as delegate-general of the party and accused him of "crimes against the NF and against France". He also repeated on national television his accusation that Mr Mégrét's supporters were "racists" and "extremists", in effect conceding something he has always denied: that the NF feeds on racial bigotry.

Mr Mégrét, 49, who pre-

sent a more managerial, modernising as well as deeply xenophobic force in the NF refused to accept his dismissal. He will go ahead with plans to call an emergency conference next month when those who attend will, doubtless, elect him as president of a kind of Provisional Wing of the NF. "My relations with Jean-Marie Le Pen are suspended," he said.

Mr Le Pen, NF president since its creation in 1972, remains in control of party headquarters in the Paris suburb of St-Cloud, from which all Mégrét supporters were ejected on Wednesday night. But Mr Mégrét claims, perhaps with some exaggeration, to have the backing of more than half the local and regional bodies of the party and substantial support among grassroots NF voters.

He may also have a lot of dirt on Mr Le Pen, who was reported to be incandescent and alarmed, to discover Mégrét sympathisers had been downloading information from the

and wane with internal splits and quarrels. This week's events may well mark the start of the end of the Le Pen era and halt the slow rise of far-right influence, which began with Mr Le Pen's big breakthrough in the European elections of 1984.

He remains the single most compelling figure of the ultra right and one of the country's few charismatic politicians. He will continue to command a large share of ultra-right votes.

But a long period of internecine warfare with Mr Mégrét will rob him of his image as a man of the people. The effect is likely to be a collapse of the overall far-right vote - up to 15 per cent in recent elections - as non-militant fringe voters drift back to the centre-right and even the Communists. This would transform the French political landscape and, above all, revive the fortunes of President Jacques Chirac and the centre-right.

Mr Mégrét's chances of building a successful counter-movement are uncertain. He is a highly intelligent, subtle and presentable politician, even a good orator. But he has none of Mr Le Pen's vulgar humour or rumbustious charm. His only chances of success would seem to be to deliver a knock-out blow against Mr Le Pen, possibly with some startling revelation about the NF's finances or wider neo-fascist European connections.

In the past month Mr Le Pen has been waging a campaign of harassment against Mr Mégrét and his supporters, stripping them of many of their responsibilities, even firing several people who worked directly with Mr Mégrét on spurious cost-cutting grounds. Last weekend Mr Mégrét struck back. He managed to smuggle his fired and suspended supporters into a meeting of the NF national council. To Mr Le Pen's astonishment, their presence was applauded by a majority of those present. When he ordered them to be ejected from the hall, Mr Le Pen was booed and heckled.

This week the harassment of the Mégrétistes became a purge, with Mr Le Pen striding the corridors of NF headquarters suspending or ejecting officials he suspected of pro-Mégrét sympathies. On Wednesday Mr Mégrét made a frontal attack on Le Pen's authority, backing his supporters' calls for an extraordinary congress of the party next month to resolve the quarrel.

Most of all, perhaps, the struggle is about Mr Le Pen's refusal to accept he is growing old and that the success and growth of the NF mean it is no longer his personal fiefdom. The schism cuts through the heart of his family. On television on Wednesday he accused Marie-Caroline, the eldest of his three daughters, of "betraying her family" by being linked to "one of the leaders of sedition". She lives with one of Mr Mégrét's lieutenants, Philippe Olivier, and has tended towards the Mégrét side in recent days.

There is bitter irony here. The internal crisis in the NF began when Mr Le Pen was suspended from seeking public office because of his assault on socialist female candidate during last year's parliamentary elections. "Papa" was campaigning for, and alongside, Marie-Caroline at the time.

Is this the end of the National Front? Should all democrats and anti-racists rejoice? No and yes. The far right is a rooted presence in the political psyche of France; its strength has tended, however, to wax



Bruno Mégrét: Likely to start a breakaway party

Saint-Cloud computers in recent days. Mr Le Pen had ordered all NF bank accounts to be frozen two days ago. The opaque finances of the Front and the sources of his lavish lifestyle have always been mysteriously entwined.

The Le Pen-Mégrét showdown, long expected, is partly generational, partly tactical. It is also a question of personal ambitions and clan hatred within the Front, which has always been an extraordinary coalition of antagonistic groups (thick Catholics, pagans, Vichy sympathisers, colonial nostalgics, extreme nationalists, Europhobes and outright racists).

Mr Mégrét supporters, mostly young or middle-aged, believe they can release the party from the ideological ghetto created by Mr Le Pen and form electoral alliances that would bring far-right ideas, and themselves, into the mainstream of French politics and government. Mr Le Pen and his supporters, including most of the old guard but also many younger activists, accuse the Mégrétistes of being prepared to trade the party's ideological purity for a few cabinet posts.

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LE PEN'S BETE NOIR

A SMALL, BALDING, vele-like man with an ingratiating smile, Bruno Mégrét, 49, makes an unlikely demagogue. He is also an unlikely racist and extreme nationalist. His wife, Catherine, the Mayor of Vitrolles, near Marseilles, is of Russian-Jewish origin; he is himself half-Greek.

Mégrét is a classic French technocratic insider - ex-Ecole Polytechnique, ex-Gaullist - who has brought his undoubted political skills to the NF: the party of the malcontented outsider. Despite his polished manner, enemies within the NF allege that Mr Mégrét is even more of an extremist than Mr Le Pen, more ideologically racist, more tempted to build philosophical links between the NF and neo-Nazism.

The organisational revolution in the past 10 years, which has transformed the NF from a protest group and a vehicle for Mr Le Pen's personality into a hugely effective grassroots party, is mostly Mr Mégrét's doing. Hence his strength in the local party machines.

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President should be tried, say charges

WITH AUDIO and video clips, high rhetoric and low cunning, lawyers for and against the impeachment of the President argued their case yesterday at the start of the House judiciary committee's formal debate on impeachment.

As the proceedings opened, the 435 members of the full House were told that they should prepare to return to Washington next Thursday for their own debate and vote - the ballot to determine whether Bill Clinton stands trial in the Senate for his conduct in the Monica Lewinsky affair.

The judiciary committee's debate focused on the formal articles of impeachment - tantamount to judicial charges - that Mr Clinton would face in the Senate. To the fury of the White House, the articles had been released by the committee's Republican majority on Wednesday evening, before the White House chief counsel had finished testifying in defence of the President.

Two of the articles accuse Mr Clinton of giving "perjurious, false and misleading testimony" in his sworn deposition in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case and in his grand jury testimony in the Lewinsky case.

One says he "prevented, obstructed and impeded the administration of justice" by delaying testimony or covering up evidence, and the fourth maintains that he abused his office by lying to his staff in the expectation that they would unwittingly relay the falsehoods in their own sworn statements.

Couched in high-flown legal

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

language, the articles conclude: "In all of this, William Jefferson Clinton has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice. [He] warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honour, trust or profit under the United States."

In tone, the articles recalled the last time, 24 years ago, when articles of impeachment were drawn up, against President Richard Nixon. But the atmosphere this time could hardly be more different.

Public concern is minimal and Mr Clinton's job approval rating still stands comfortably above 60 per cent.

The counsel for the Democratic minority, Abbe Lowell, was the first to argue his case yesterday, introducing sworn statements from Mr Clinton, Miss Lewinsky and others to argue that Mr Clinton's only aim in misleading the public and not being - in his words - "particularly helpful" to the prosecutors was to keep his liaison with Ms Lewinsky secret.

Later, David Schippers for the Republicans, was expected to argue the opposite, displaying for the first time excerpts from Mr Clinton's taped deposition in the Jones case, to illustrate his contention that the President repeatedly perjured himself to evade his responsibilities before the law.



Posters in Jerusalem depicting Bill Clinton in Palestinian head-dress saying 'I am a Palestinian'; others say 'Clinton Go Home' Reuters

Arafat's peace gesture for Clinton

YASSER ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, convened senior officials and legislators yesterday to drop clauses from the Palestinian charter which call for the elimination of Israel, in the run-up to President Bill Clinton's visit to Gaza.

As they did so, thousands of Palestinians marched through the rain in the funeral procession of Jihad Iyad, a 17-year-old stonemason shot on Wednesday, when there was rioting throughout the West Bank. The rain helped to reduce clashes yesterday between Israeli soldiers and demonstrators calling for the release of 2,400 Palestinian prisoners.

Mr Arafat may also be trying to contain the protests as he prepares to welcome Mr Clinton on Monday. The Israeli hard right sees the visit as *de facto* recognition of a Palestinian state by the United States. Posters showing Mr Clinton wearing Palestinian head-dress and slogans saying "Clinton, Go Home" are appearing on walls in Jerusalem.

The clauses in the Palestinian charter to which Israel objects are being removed by an elaborate constitutional mechanism whereby the Palestinian Central Council in Gaza yesterday approved a letter from Mr Arafat to Mr Clinton, saying the clauses had been nullified.

Mr Clinton will address the Palestine National Council

(PNC) in the Shawa Centre, a conference hall in Gaza, which will also affirm that clauses have been dropped from the charter. The Palestinians say the clauses were removed in 1996, with the agreement of the US and the previous Israeli government.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, says he has ordered security forces to act with "an iron fist" against rioters after clashes this week, which left two Palestinians dead and 150 Palestinians and Israelis injured.

"Our duty is to activate the Israeli army and the security element against this trouble in the firmest possible way."

Mr Netanyahu says he will wait to see the outcome of the

PNC meeting before deciding if he will attend a meeting with Mr Clinton and Mr Arafat. The Israeli leader wants the PNC to decide by a vote, while Mr Arafat says it will be by acclamation. Yesterday he said: "It is not their [the Israelis'] business. We are following our rules."

Another sign of US-Israeli tension was an angry response by Mr Netanyahu to a report that William Daley, the US Commerce Secretary, had made an implicit call for fresh elections in Israel. "Hopefully the people of Israel will make their voices heard a little louder in their support for peace," he allegedly said. The US embassy later said Mr Casey was misreported.

At a more personal level, the Clintons are reported by the Israeli press to have decided a meeting with Mr and Mrs Netanyahu. Diplomats say Mrs Clinton is trying to limit the amount of time she will spend with Yasser Arafat, fearing she will have to give equal time to Mrs Netanyahu.

In an effort to stop the rioting on the West Bank, Dennis Ross, the US special envoy, made an implicit appeal yesterday for Israel to modify its refusal to free Palestinian detainees, who are on hunger strike. The rioting began when Israel freed 150 criminals, many of them car thieves, and only 100 security prisoners under the Wye Agreement brokered by Mr Clinton in October.

BY STEVE BOGGAN

EXECUTIVE OUTCOMES, the controversial firm of mercenaries announced yesterday that it was to lay down its weapons and stop intervening in Africa's myriad wars.

After a decade of adventures from Angola to Sierra Leone, and Kenya to Papua New Guinea, the company said that a new found sense of law and order across the continent no longer "justify our efforts", an excuse that most military analysts found hard to swallow.

More likely is the reason that the South African-based company realised it would fall foul of recent legislation introduced by the Mandela government aimed at curtailing the involvement of South Africans in mercenary activities.

"We have had some good times and we are proud of what we have achieved," said Nico Palm, EO's director. But, he added: "Over the past two years the majority of governments in Africa have endeavoured to secure and maintain law and order. The nature of these efforts do not justify our involvement. I have got a family and after ten years we had enough of it."

With wars raging across Africa, EO's excuse seemed lame. Indeed, its business may well find its way to the London-based Sandline International Ltd, the military consultancy at the centre of the "arms to Sierra Leone" controversy earlier this year.

Both companies are said to have links with the British businessman Tony Buckingham, a former Special Boat Service officer.

But a spokeswoman for Sandline said yesterday that it had no links with EO and it was "business as usual" for the London-based company. Tim Spicer, the former Army officer who runs Sandline, was not available for comment.

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Desperate protest in Russia's Arctic

By PHIL REEVES
in Pevek

THE COMPLAINT by Valentina Velichko is no routine industrial gripe. It is not as if she has not been paid for a mere six months – common enough across Russia – or even a full year. No, the last time she received hard cash for her labours as a crane operator in the Arctic was three and a half years ago.

And nor is her protest a routine industrial action. The fact that she and 10 others are on hunger strike is almost academic, since they barely had any food in the first place. A fortnight ago, after they ceased to receive bread, they stopped eating, huddling up in bed against the incredibly severe temperatures outside.

They will, they say, remain there until the authorities take notice. If that means death then so be it, says Ms Velichko, who has weighing scales next to her bed. Her records reveal that the strikers have lost an average of almost a stone each. One has already been dispatched to hospital.

Ms Velichko belongs to a village outside Pevek, a dying port and restricted border zone rarely visited by Western correspondents. Although it sits on Russia's extreme north-eastern edge on the Arctic Sea, it lies



The hunger strikers of Chukotka huddling in bed

at the very heart of the country's economic crisis.

The strikers' job is to service the airport but now, like 28 villages before it in the huge Chukotka region, their community is being closed down. Although rich in minerals – it has the second largest gold reserves in Russia – Chukotka is fast shedding population.

Here, her story is an all too familiar one. She was hired to the Arctic 16 years ago, full of hope and idealism, by the high rates of pay offered to those willing to work in extreme conditions. Somehow, she never left – condemning herself to incarceration in one of the most remote societies on earth.

In winter, the sun does not rise above the horizon of snow-covered tundra and frozen Arctic sea. An iron-grey twilight hovers reluctantly over the town for a few hours around lunchtime, before fading to black. This week, temperatures were minus 35C. It took 20 seconds for a ballpoint pen to freeze.

Women wander around the town – a lifeless collection of utilitarian Soviet housing blocks, a near-dead sea port, and a few moribund plants – swathed in fur coats reaching to their feet. Windows are a waste of wall space – for nine months of the year they are encrusted with an impenetrable white frost. This is no place for human beings, and many of them know that all too well.

Which is one reason so many are either getting out, or trying to. When they were paid it was tolerable, but now almost everyone seems to go unpaid for months. There is food in the shops, but prices are twice that of Moscow, the world's third most expensive city. The hospital is seriously short of medicine and doctors. Shortages of fuel are commonplace. Mys Schmidtka, a town 300 miles to the west, is still waiting for a delivery of fuel. It arrived by ship in Pevek days ago, and there it

remained: no one can agree on who will pay for it.

For such reasons, the population of the Pevek area has dropped by two-thirds in seven years, from 34,500 to 12,500, a migration repeated across the Russia north. Chukotka's population has shrunk from 180,000 to 90,000 in the same period, a process encouraged by the anti-Communist governor, Alexander Nazarov.

Mr Nazarov recognises that, after limping on for six decades, the Soviet experiment in social engineering – the arrogant Stalinist belief that man could conquer by colonisation any corner of the world, no matter how harsh – has collapsed, changing the geopolitical map in this vast territory, whose eastern edge is less than a hundred miles from Alaska.

Plenty more would like to leave, but cannot afford the air ticket, let alone a flat somewhere else. Larisa Koza, 40, head of the municipal welfare office, has a list of almost 700 families who applied for government assistance to return to the "mainland". Of these, 69 are special category cases – pensioners, veterans, invalids.

But Ms Koza's organisation, like every other arm of government, is hopelessly underfunded last year only eight special cases were helped to relocate. She wants out herself. "If you gave me the choice, and housing on the mainland, I would leave too," she said.

The choice is a rare luxury. Most are stranded in what amounts to a prison. The conditions may not be as hellish as those which once prevailed with families who applied for government assistance to return to the "mainland". Of these, 69 are special category cases – pensioners, veterans, invalids.

What, then, does the future hold? Mr Nazarov is campaigning hard for international investment, especially in the gold industry which, hampered by a low price and inefficient production, makes a loss. He envisages a new society with a smaller population in which towns become industrial outposts, like North Sea platforms, whose workers come and go.

He claims to have \$600m (£364m) of potential investment waiting for parliament to pass production-sharing laws. He talks of creating a thriving fishing industry, sea-weed farms. But he admits the inescapable truth: the north is "in a terrible situation". As Ms Velichko and her friends know only too well.

A solitary figure regarding frozen Pevek, whose population has dropped by two-thirds in seven years Otto Pohl

Photo: AP

Venice rejects 'Moses' flood barriers



Flooding in St Mark's Square must be prevented but Italian politicians cannot agree a policy

Reuters

ITALY'S GREENS were yesterday celebrating a ruling by the country's Environment Ministry against the installation of giant mobile flood-barriers on the Venice lagoon.

An environmental impact report gave the thumbs down to the £1.5bn Project Moses, which is designed to protect Venice against high tides and rising sea levels.

The committee outlined four main objections: the project did not meet the objective of re-establishing the environmental equilibrium of the lagoon, it failed to integrate with the other initiatives for the protection of Venice and risked damaging them, and it entailed significant damage to the port.

The Venezia Nuova consortium, which has designed and would have built the 100ft-high flood barriers, is now expected to press for the matter to be decided directly by the Italian cabinet, or the Prime Minister.

The committee's report says that despite serious pressure and lobbying by Moses backers, it has been able to maintain its independence," said Venetian Senator Giorgio Sarto, a Green and a town planner.

"Those backing Project Moses present it as the only possible solution and invoke apocalyptic scenarios to push it through. Anyone who opposes the floodgates is depicted as wanting to see Venice sink. We

face the same problems as our ancestors and like them must find ways that don't damage the ecosystem and don't cost the earth," he said.

The Greens and other environmental groups, such as Italia Nostra or Legambiente, have long argued that a series of integrated "soft" measures could reduce the height of the tide reaching Venice by about eight inches. The basic principles are reducing the flow from the Adriatic into the lagoon, creating more space in the lagoon for the water to expand and lifting Venice up by adding another layer to its foundations.

They advocate the closure of the Canale di Petrolio, the artificial channel in the lagoon that is used by tankers. They say that its depth creates a passage for extra water to arrive in Venice and accentuates the process of erosion.

"Curving the entrance to the lagoon and filling in the holes in the seabed created by erosion is crucial to further reducing the flow of water," said Mr Sarto. "Freeing up the fish farms and other areas currently sealed off within the lagoon will also allow the water to expand once inside."

The strategy involves raising the land level of Venice itself. Recent digging around the Mal-

ibran Theatre has revealed visual proof that Venice has been successively raised over the centuries to beat the problem of high tides.

"In the lowest parts of the city we can raise the pavements on average to 1.2m above sea level at the same time as we are doing the maintenance and cleaning work just as they have done for centuries," said Stefano Boato, a Green member of the Venice Council.

After decades of neglect,

several years ago the city administration began a clean-up. Boats with metal arms dredge the canal floors, pulling up rubbish and silt. Forty per cent of the canals have now been cleaned, with 110 thousand cubic metres of silt sucked out.

Raising the "ground level" is underway in three areas of the city. In the Ghetto, a half-mile stretch has been raised by six inches by inserting a layer of stone or sand immediately under the pavement. Residents are offered grants of up to 80 per cent of the cost of raising their foundations to match the newly elevated "footpath".

These initiatives have already been endorsed in three special laws for Venice since 1973, which provide extraordinary funds for preserving the city. Only a fraction of those provisions have been implemented," Mr Boato said.

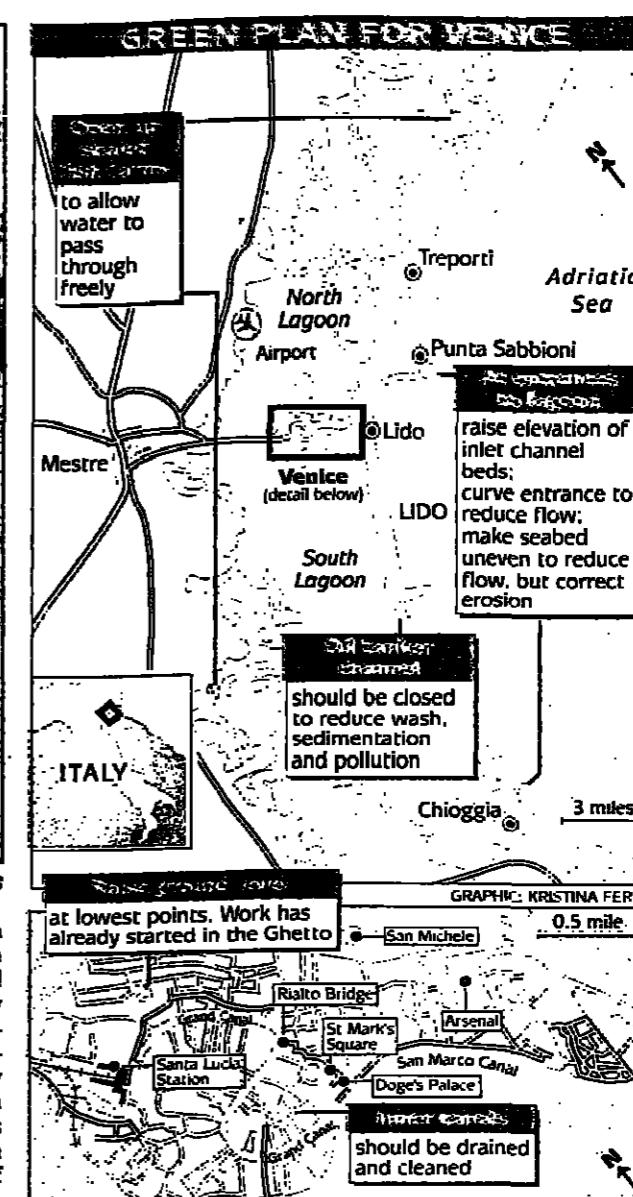
rants and boutiques stand on one of the lowest lying areas in the city and they can be underwater up to 80 times a year.

The environmental thumbs-down for Moses – despite a favourable opinion by a committee of international experts – is likely to receive a mixed reaction in the city itself.

Massimo Cacciari, the mayor of Venice, who heads a

left-wing administration with a smattering of Greens, has been worried that the project would take government funds away from other important city projects.

His red-green administration remains divided, mainly opposing the scheme, but with a vocal lobby arguing that it is better to do something than nothing, after so many years of paralysis.



Darkness closes on German tinseltown

EUROPEAN TIMES
BABELSBERG

MEDIEVAL GUARDS waving swords patrol the entrance to the restaurant in the bowels of Europe's greatest dream factory. Upon admission, the patrons of the Prince Ironheart are given paper aprons for the gargantuan feast that lies ahead: cured ham, pig knuckles and fatty goose, washed down with ample quantities of riesling and a smooth red from Württemberg.

While the digestive system battles with this fare, the visual and aural sensues are assaulted by a succession of bare-bottomed female fire-eaters writhing on stage, followed by a gloriously camp troubadour, and rounded off with blood-curdling sword fights in the aisles. Take your eyes off them at your peril. On the other side of the hall, monochrome monsters snarl down with ample quantities of riesling and a smooth red from Württemberg.

Not all of this is real, of course. The troubadour's harp is plugged into an amplifier, the sword-fighters' swords are made of plastic, and maybe even the goose is only an old hen. But the hideous ghouls that flicker on the wall are real enough: they are the creations of Fritz Lang and his contemporaries in the golden age of German cinema, 70 years ago. Here they came to life, in a dingy Berlin suburb stretched along a black lake.

Babelsberg needed no introduction in those days. It glittered as bright as any place on earth. But then darkness fell, and its denizens boarded the boat heading for a village named Hollywood.

Fast forward seven decades, tactfully skipping the artistic output of the Nazis and the Communists, as well as the post-war chans and decrepitude. In 1992, a French utility company bought the run-down studios from the state, promising to turn them into the biggest movie-making facility this side of the Atlantic.



Volker Schlöndorff: Back to making movies

lorn? He is, after all, Mr Babelsberg, otherwise known as Volker Schlöndorff, Germany's greatest living film director. Or he was, until about six years ago, when he agreed to become the manager of the studios. With international hits such as *Swans in Love* and *The Tin Drum* to his name, it was his job to sprinkle some pixie dust over Babelsberg, and – hey presto – Europe's Tinseltown would be reborn.

It did not happen. The movies did not come to Babelsberg and, while waiting anxiously for the miracle, Mr Schlöndorff's creative juices dried up.

"I gave six years of my life to being a manager," he says, sipping his riesling

but giving the pig knuckle a wide berth. "In the end, I would only content myself if we made big movies here. Somehow, we had no luck."

A year ago, he resigned as head of the company, although he remains on the board. There is a new manager: "a young man out of business school". At least Babelsberg is no longer losing money, but nor is it making movies.

"My personal regret is that it's all television and entertainment," Mr Schlöndorff said. Much of the revenue comes from German soap operas and game shows, as well as the theme park where day-trippers can meet the scary robot from Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*.

"We are suffering from the total lack of major production in Europe," he added. Even the beefed-up Babelsberg studios cannot compete with Hollywood, which accounts for 80 per cent of the German market.

Artistically, too, Mr Schlöndorff's tenure did not bring universal success. The one big movie he directed here, *The Ogre*, failed to impress the critics. Now he is struggling to put his managerial career behind him, but reinventing himself as film director is proving difficult. "Once you've had your head full of economics, it's hard to get it out," he said.

"It's somewhat paralysing." He is writing a script – a "small east-west German story" – which he will shoot in the spring.

There may yet be a happy ending. Mr Schlöndorff will make his film; and perhaps it will be one that people want to watch. German films are beginning to win international acclaim again. But Babelsberg – like its restaurant – is stranded in the realm of make-believe. A new Hollywood it will never be, but its future as a purveyor of soap seems assured.

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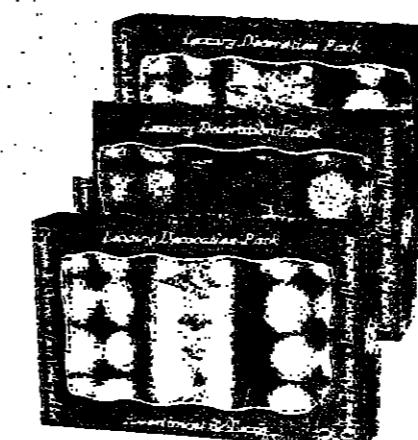
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£7.50 per pack



Flickering Candle Arch (Shown)

Chasing Candle Arch

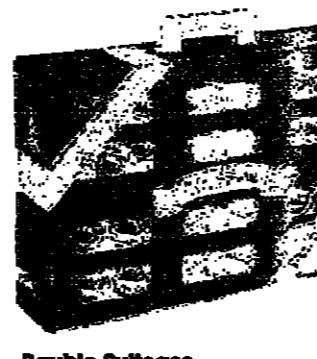
£10 Was £25

£12.50

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Fun, animated Christmas tree with poinsettia flowers. Sings and has face with moving mouth.

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Was £20

£10

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BRIEFING

\$85bn cost of euro preparation

EUROPE'S LARGEST companies could spend as much as \$85bn (£51bn) on preparations for European Monetary Union, according to a survey carried out by KPMG, the consultants. KPMG, which estimates the average cost per company of transition to the euro at \$51m, says most European firms now have an EMU strategy in place. However, four in 10 of companies surveyed have yet to estimate the costs of changing over to the euro.

Companies in different countries and sectors are likely to adapt at differing paces, and this could potentially cause severe short-term disruptions, KPMG warns.

WS Atkins calls off Bovis talks

WS ATKINS, the consulting engineer, called off talks with P&O over the acquisition of Bovis, the transport group's construction arm. The announcement triggered a 17 per cent rise in Atkins's share price to 532.5p as the market expressed its relief.

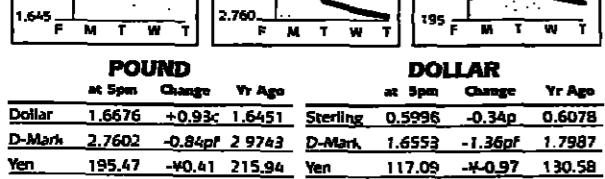
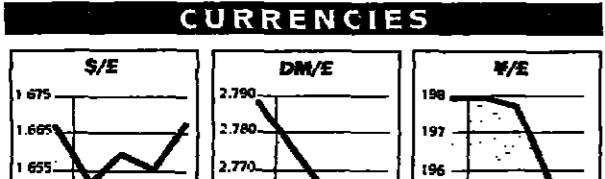
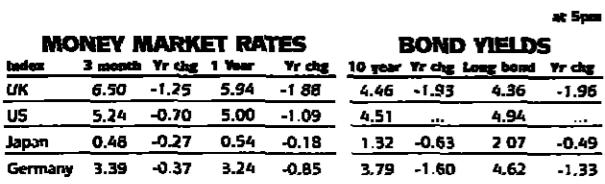
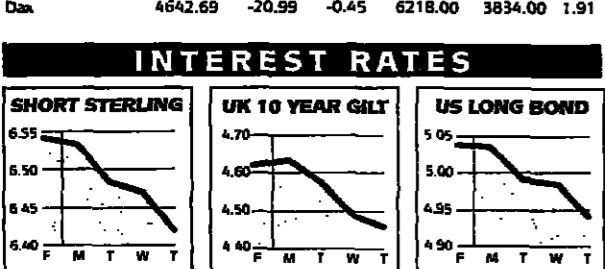
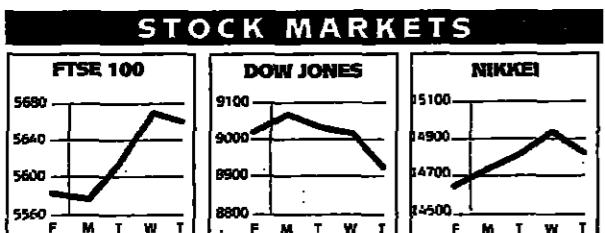
Industry analysts were worried that Atkins would dilute its strong earnings growth by overpaying for Bovis. P&O was believed to have requested £350m and a 10 to 15 per cent stake in Atkins to sell Bovis, which last year had a turnover of £1.8bn.

PowerGen £534m contract cost

POWERGEN WILL pay £534m to the owners of Liverpool Bay - BHP Petroleum, Lasmo and Monument Oil and Gas - in return for renegotiating existing gas supply contracts to Connah's Quay power station in Wales. PowerGen said modifications to the contracts, signed in 1991 when gas prices were higher, will cut yearly operating costs by £60m.

Western banks warn Russia

LEADING WESTERN banks warned Russia that it would "aggravate its financial isolation" if it went ahead with plans to restructure its frozen rouble debt against the wishes of its creditors. The Russian government, which sparked turmoil in the financial markets in August when it effectively defaulted on \$14bn of debt, said it had agreed terms with foreign creditors and would next week start swapping frozen debt for new ruble-denominated bonds. But foreign creditors denied any agreement had been reached.



www.bloomberg.com

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

Australia (\$)	2.5864	Medcan (nuevo peso)	15.12
Austria (schillings)	18.82	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0179
Belgium (francs)	55.34	New Zealand (\$)	3.0463
Canada (\$)	2.4852	Norway (krone)	12.21
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7919	Portugal (escudos)	272.44
Denmark (korne)	10.25	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0483
Finland (markka)	8.1568	Singapore (\$)	2.6079
France (francs)	8.9816	Spain (pesetas)	227.79
Germany (marks)	2.6906	South Africa (rand)	9.5231
Greece (drachma)	450.68	Sweden (korne)	13.04
Hong Kong (\$)	12.46	Switzerland (francs)	2.1896
Ireland (punts)	1.0773	Thailand (bahts)	54.34
India (rupees)	63.50	Turkey (liras)	487.581
Israel (shekels)	6.4223	USA (\$)	1.6204
Italy (lira)	2866		
Japan (yen)	190.77		
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0445		
Malta (lira)	0.6045		

Pates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

BUSINESS

Industry hails cut, but wants more next year

By LEA PATERSON
AND DIANE COYLE

THERE WAS a muted reaction in the financial markets – but a welcome from business and unions – for the half-point interest-rate cut to 6.25 per cent announced by the Monetary Policy Committee yesterday. The focus moved immediately on to the outlook for the economy and earnings. A weak opening on Wall Street did little to help sentiment in London, and the FTSE 100 finished the day down 8.8 points at 5,860.3.

Ken Wainright at Paribas said:

"The cut is a double-edged sword for equities. It's positive for growth, but it is also official confirmation that the economy is in trouble."

In the bond markets, gilts benefited from safe-haven flows and yields on benchmark 10-year gilts fell by 4 basis points to a record low of 4.45 per cent.

Sterling opened weaker

against the German mark, but jumped by more than half a pfennig after the announcement. The pound finished the day at DM2.762, marginally down on Wednesday's close.

Neil Parker at Royal Bank of Scotland said: "Sterling's reaction suggests that people were building in more than a 50 basis point cut."

Nick Stamenkov at Bank Austria Creditanstalt Futures said: "You can't rule out a rate cut in January, particularly if Christmas sales are weak. But if there is no move in January, February seems inevitable."

Unions, too, were looking to the Bank's next move. Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, said: "The MPC has some way to go, but it is on

the right track to avoid full-blown recession." But John Edmonds of the GMB union described yesterday's half-point move as a "pathetic" half-point.

Alan Armitage, chief economist at the Engineering Employers' Federation, said UK rates had to fall further point out that they remain more than twice as high as in the rest of Europe.

The BRC published figures showing that prices on the high street fell last month to a level almost 1 per cent down on the same time a year ago. Kevin Gardiner, an economist at Morgan Stanley, said: "Last week's European rate cuts underlined the risk of global deflation."

Analysts said this third cut in three months could not do much to boost the economy in the first half of next year, but would help further ahead. "We are going to see very weak growth over the next couple of quarters," said Richard Illey at ABN Amro.

Kate Barker, chief economist at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "It took a long time for industry to lose export orders and it will take a long time to get them back."

Oftel in move to force BT to open lines

By PETER THAL LARSEN

OTTEL, the telecoms watchdog, yesterday launched a consultation which could force British Telecom to open up its local telephone network to rival operators for the first time.

The inquiry, which will last until the end of March, is designed to make sure that residential and small business telecoms users do not miss out on the benefits of the rapid technological advances in the industry.

Oftel is concerned that BT's local network – known as the local loop – is not sufficiently hi-tech to give users access to new services, such as high-speed internet and video on demand.

The watchdog is proposing that BT be forced to open up its network to rivals, who would be allowed to start offering unique services over the telecoms giant's lines.

Oftel is consulting on five options, which range from forcing BT to sell its lines to rivals to requiring the company to make a high-speed service available to others.

David Edmonds, Oftel director-general, said the watchdog was open-minded about the likely best options. It also wants to make sure that any measures it adopts do not encourage BT from investing in its network in future.

Industry experts said there was likely to be plenty of interest in the move. "Anything consumers buy now, such as video and audio, could be delivered down a pipe if the capacity was there," said Roger Runswick, a director of Scheme, the telecoms consultancy.

At the moment BT's network is only capable of delivering voice calls. But new digital technologies, such as the new digital technology ADSL, would allow operators to deliver high-speed data over existing copper wires.

The move is a recognition that BT's rivals have failed to mount a credible challenge to the power of the former monopoly telephone company. "BT is likely to maintain its dominance in the local access area," said Mr Edmonds.

The paper also pre-empted possible European Commission directives designed to force former telephone monopolies around the continent to yield to competition.



An early Christmas present: "We are pleased to see the benefits of lower rates feeding through to homeowners sooner rather than later," said the Council of Mortgage Lenders

Jay Williams

SAVINGS FROM LOWER RATES

Monthly payments on a £60,000 repayment mortgage (25-year term) at standard variable rate

Lender	This month	Next month	Saving
Halifax	£455.92	£437.19	£18.73
Abbey National	£452.03	£433.37	£18.66
Nationwide	£438.13	£419.79	£18.34

bringing rates to their lowest level since the late 1980s. Mortgage experts are even warning that some borrowers may fall to benefit from future rate cuts due to built-in interest rate "minimums".

Nick Deutsch, managing director of the specialist lender First Mortgage, said: "Borrowers should check whether they have a minimum interest rate built into their contract. It may have seemed so remote when they took out the loan that it may not have been discussed."

Mobile battle claims 30,000 Ericsson jobs

By PETER THAL LARSEN

spend to the pressures with "substantial reductions" in its employee base. The group is now expected to cut a further 10,000 jobs on top of existing plans to reduce its 100,000-strong workforce by 20,000.

Ericsson would not comment on where the job cuts were likely to fall. The company employs 3,500 in its UK operations, which include a mobile phone factory in Carlton, near Worksop.

The warning, which wiped 20 per cent off Ericsson's market value, sent shock waves through the rest of the mobile phone industry, hitting shares

Ericsson said it would re-

duce its workforce by 20,000. The company's comment came as it reported its biggest losses since early October, with the OMX index shedding 5.8 per cent to finish at 586.

Ericsson, the third-largest mobile phone maker in the world, recorded its biggest-ever one-day loss – 28 per cent – as it said profits would undershoot and margins would fall as demand shifts to cheaper models. Astra clipped 6 per cent, paring the 13 per cent surge on Wednesday, on fears that its merger with Zeneca may not deliver a profits boost as soon as anticipated.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

UK LONDON

FOOTsie ended lower as a weak New York overshadowed the half-point rate cut and takeover speculation dried up. In busy trading, with turnover topping 1 billion shares, the index

Britain's uncompetitive interest rates

MEMBERS of the Monetary Policy Committee must have appreciated by now that nobody is ever going to thank them for what they do. They have responded rapidly to the global slowdown by cutting rates 1.25 points in three months - a distance that took a year to cover on the way up. And the reaction? A grudging welcome at best. Half a point is better than nothing, but UK rates remain more than twice as high as those of our European partners.

The gap is a yawning one. Another 3.5 percentage points of mortgage rates would put nearly £150 a month back into the bank balance of the typical UK home-buyer. Not all of this can be considered the price Britain pays for staying outside the first wave of the single currency. In part it also reflects the fact that the UK economy is at a much later stage of its business cycle. There is a less dramatic differential - "just" 1.5 points - between US and UK rates. If growth recovers as expected in Euroland, interest rates there will eventually rise, and this might well be at a time when British loan costs are still falling.

All the same, for the time being the UK faces a big penalty for its combination of poor inflation record



OUTLOOK

and decision to stay out of monetary union. The gap between mainland and British long-term government bond yields is about 70 basis points, reflecting the combination of higher expected UK inflation in future and the risk that the country will never get round to joining the euro. German bond yields have fallen almost as much as UK yields during the past year, despite the cyclical differences.

So business leaders were right to complain yesterday that they still have to pay far more than their rivals on the Continent to borrow money. Despite this, the Bank cannot realistically opt to match the European Central Bank's interest

rate. As things stand, all it can sensibly do is continue the painstaking work of building strong inflation-busting credentials. Interest rates will only come into line with Europe when Britain joins the rest of Europe in the single currency, a decision that lies in the hands of the Bank's political task-masters.

Royal Doulton

BRITAIN'S TEXTILE industry has already all but gone down the Swanee due a combination of the strong pound, cheap imports and the well publicised problems of Marks & Spencer. Now our fine china industry has developed some yawning fault lines too.

As corporate announcements go, yesterday's from Royal Doulton was as bleak as they come. Some 1,000 jobs are to go, including 1,000 in the UK. Moreover, half of them before Christmas (nice touch, that). All this has resulted in £45m of exceptional charges - and, oh yes, there was another warning of profit warning.

We have seen cuts elsewhere in this troubled industry, most notably from Churchill China, but nothing on

this scale. Is this an industry-wide problem, or has Royal Doulton cracked its own teapot, so to speak?

As is often the case, the truth lies somewhere in between. The strong pound has destroyed exports and cheapened imports, although to be fair, Royal Doulton wasn't blaming the pound yesterday. This is more a tale of a rather old-fashioned company in an old-fashioned industry being too slow to change anything else.

Used to producing good quality products that sold themselves, Royal Doulton has been caught out by more modern, design-conscious operators like Villeroy & Boch of Germany. Royal Doulton soldiered on with its production-driven ethos. It is over-produced, over-stocked and under-invested in marketing, branding and retail positioning.

These days, people just don't seem to want the same crockery set as their mum. Belatedly, Royal Doulton is now trying to catch up. It has cut 320 lines to 120. And more attention is being paid to design and marketing. But it will be a long haul.

According to the British Ceramics Confederation, the number of workers involved in pottery production in north Staffordshire is

now around 20,000, a figure only marginally lower than 10 years ago. Further cuts now seem certain. Does Britain still have a place in pottery production or, like textiles, will much of it move offshore? Grim though this latest news has been, there are certain unique selling points.

The "Hand Crafted in England" stamp is a key part of top brands; cheap labour competitors cannot replicate that. There are also some parts of the production process where the British have skills that are not often matched elsewhere - hand-painting for example. It is not all gloom and doom, but the industry does need to start living in the real world.

Royal Dutch/Shell

WONDERFUL THING, consensus management. Everyone agrees, so everyone's happy. Better still, claim exponents, it makes executives less worried about doing "the wrong thing", so far from leading to corporate paralysis, it ought to generate quite adventurous and decisive executive action. Unfortunately, it also makes it hard to the point of impossibility to hold any one accountable,

since all decisions carry collective responsibility. Furthermore, the easiest consensus to reach is always the passive one - to do nothing.

At Royal Dutch/Shell, it has been the disadvantages of consensus management, rather than its claimed advantages, that have been more in evidence in recent years. No one was ever fired at Shell over the Brent Spar fiasco. Come to think of it, few people are ever fired at all at Shell.

For many years this was seen as a sign of good and inspired management. Not for Shell the getting-hire-and-fire mentality of the modern corporation. Shell seemed to be able to maintain its position as one of the world's most successful and admired companies without resorting to such methods. This perception may always have owed more to the sheer size and power of the company than the underlying reality.

It has taken the investment community a while to recognise it, but in recent years Shell has slipped seriously behind its peers in terms of return on capital, the most obvious benchmark of management's ability to generate shareholder value. Belatedly, and spurred on by



Hakan Mogren, Astra's controversial chief executive, was previously manager at a chocolate maker

PA

Has Zeneca chosen wisely?

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA
FOR ASTRA and Zeneca, yesterday was the start of the rest of their lives. After a frantic day of analysts' meetings and press briefings, the Swedish and UK pharmaceutical groups began the long, hard slog to get their £5bn merger approved by the competition authorities in Europe and the US.

If everything goes to plan, the combined group will make its debut on the London, New York and the Stockholm stock exchanges next year as the world's third-largest drug-maker. In the meantime, the two companies will start to integrate the two businesses while keeping an eye out for any hostile bid which might spoil the party - Roche, the Swiss group, is the hot favourite.

But as the lights go down on the glitzy presentations, and the soundbites about a "perfect fit" between the companies fade away, key questions remain. Is this a good deal for Zeneca? Has the UK group, which professed the merits of independence for so long, found the right partner to get ahead

A CHEQUERED PAST

1913 - Astra founded
1928 - Posts a loss for the last time this century
1943 - Opens its central laboratory in Söderfors, near Stockholm. To this day the town remains Astra's main research and development hub
1948 - Launches the anaesthetic Xylocaine, its first star product
1955 - Lists on the Stockholm Stock Exchange
1968 - Reaches out-of-court settlement in a high-profile case over thalidomide
1970s - Sells its non-pharmaceutical operations to concentrate on drugs

"Their drug pipeline is weak. There is a handful of products in there but nothing will ever come near Lososec. Astra's prospects before the merger looked very very poor," one industry expert said.

Astra's other weak point, according to industry insiders, is in drug development. The company has suffered a series of setbacks in bringing its products to the market in the recent past. The biggest scare of all came in the early 1980s, when Astra was forced to halt pre-clinical studies of its blockbuster-to-be Lososec because of fears that it might cause cancer.

In the event, the company proved that rumours in some of the rats in the trials were not caused by Lososec, but the whole episode caused a long delay in the development of the drug.

More recently, Astra has had to wait longer than expected for the US approval of its asthma drug Pulmicort, because, as one insider put it, "it had not anticipated the American authorities' questions". Outside the pharmaceutical world, Astra has been linked to a sexual harassment scandal in the US, which saw the departure of one of its top executives, although the company has always rebutted all the allegations.

Throughout this mixed history, the company's fate has been inextricably linked to the Wallenbergs, whose empire spans most of Sweden's blue-chips, including ABB, Saab, Electrolux and Ericsson. Investor, the Wallenbergs' investment vehicle, is Astra's largest shareholder - a position which it will retain in Astra-Zeneca. The merger will do

little to dilute the Wallenbergs' grip on the company, with Percy Barnevik, the respected head of Investor set to become chairman of the new group.

But it is Hakan Mogren, the executive deputy chairman of AstraZeneca, who is the key link between the family and Astra. Dr Mogren, a former top manager at Maribon, Scandinavia's leading chocolate maker, has been at Astra's helm for almost 10 years and was one of the architects of the Zeneca deal.

Despite being widely credited as the man who turned Lososec into a best-seller, Dr Mogren has few friends among the analysts and press, who accuse of him of being aloof and uncommunicative, and bemoan what they see as his lavish lifestyle. Few industry insiders forgive Dr Mogren, a biochemist by training, for his food industry background, which they regard as inadequate preparation to run a drug company.

A recent survey of Swedish analysts found that 88 per cent believed that Astra's share price would rise if Dr Mogren left. His supporters counter that the opera-loving chief executive with a passion for food and wine is simply too colourful for the stuffy Swedish corporate world.

They claim that London, Astra-Zeneca's new base, will be a perfect stage for his flamboyant talents and believe that the UK financial community will see a mellover Dr Mogren.

However, some observers contrast Dr Mogren's abrasive character with the gentlemanly and suave manners of Sir David Barnes, the Zeneca chief executive who will be the merged company's co-deputy chairman, and wonder whether their relationship will survive the harsh test of a merger.

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ACCOUNT TITLE	GROSS RATE (% P.A.)	NET RATE (% P.A.)
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£250,000+	3.500	2.800
£100,000 - £249,999	3.375	2.700
£25,000 - £99,999	3.125	2.500
£3,000 - £24,999	2.625	2.100
£100 - £1,999	2.250	1.800
HIGH-INTEREST BUSINESS ACCOUNT - 14 days' notice		
£250,000+	4.875	3.900
£100,000 - £249,999	4.750	3.800
£25,000 - £99,999	4.500	3.600
£10,000 - £24,999	4.000	3.200
£3,000 - £9,999	3.250	2.600
CLIENTS' PREMIUM ACCOUNT		
£1 million +	4.250	3.400
£250,000 - £999,999	4.125	3.300
£100,000 - £249,999	4.000	3.200
£25,000 - £99,999	3.625	2.900
£10,000 - £24,999	3.375	2.700
BARCLAYS COMMUNITY ACCOUNT (An interest bearing current account for clubs, charities, churches and societies)		
No minimum balance.		
£25,000+	2.125	1.700
£10,000 - £24,999	1.625	1.300
£3,000 - £9,999	1.125	0.900
£0 - £4,999	0.875	0.700
SEVEN-DAY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT (A seven days' notice account. Not open to new depositors. No minimum balance.)		
	0.500	0.400

GROSS RATE is the contractual rate of interest payable net taking account of the deduction of income tax at the lower rate. NET RATE is the rate which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the lower rate. The Tax Deduction Scheme for Interest (TDS) may vary and, therefore, the net rate is given as an illustration only. Tax will only be deducted in those cases where the Bank is obliged to do so.

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Eastern to unveil Spanish power and gas alliance

EASTERN GROUP, the regional electricity supplier, is today expected to reveal a strategic alliance with Hidroelectrica del Cantabria, Spain's fourth-largest utility company.

The deal, which will enable Eastern to distribute both electricity and gas throughout Spain, is expected to be announced at lunchtime today.

Ramon Almenros, a spokesman for Hidroelectrica del Cantabria, said the alliance was expected to be confirmed after a meeting of Cantabria's board this morning.

The two companies had been discussing a "collaboration agreement in electricity and gas distribution," Mr Almenros said, but he declined to reveal specific details of the link-up.

Dave Bettridge, a spokesman for Eastern, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Texas Utilities, would only confirm that Eastern had been in talks with Cantabria. He ruled out a takeover or swap of assets.

The Spanish government will open 40 per cent of the electricity market to foreign competition early next year, and has imposed rate cuts on suppliers.

Cantabria is the only one of Spain's big four utility companies not to have allied itself with a foreign company. In October, National Power bought 25 per cent of Fenosa, Spain's third-largest electricity company, cementing their previous alliance. An analyst in Madrid said Cantabria was a good, efficient company and an excellent "port of entry" into the Spanish market. The company, based in the North-west of Spain, would benefit from Eastern's gas and distribution expertise, he added.

Trading in Cantabria shares was suspended for an hour by regulatory authorities yesterday as rumours of a link-up swept Madrid dealing rooms. Cantabria shares ended the day up 2 per cent.

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Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the Shares, issued and to be issued pursuant to the Offers, to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that such admission will become effective and that dealings will commence by not later than 27 January 1999 in respect of applications for the 1998/1999 tax year received by 25 January 1999, by not later than 1 April 1999 in respect of applications for the 1998/1999 tax year received by 31 March 1999 and by not later than 9 April 1999 in respect of applications for the 1999/2000 tax year received by 31 March 1999.

Close Brothers Development VCT PLC

(Incorporated and Registered in England and Wales No. 3654140)

Offers for Subscription

of up to 15,000,000 Shares

and

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payable in full on application

Subject to an overall maximum subscription in respect of both Offers of 15,000,000 Shares

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Share Capital immediately following the Offers, assuming that the overall maximum subscription is achieved:

Authorised No. of Shares	Nominal Value	Issued and to be issued fully paid No. of Shares	Nominal Value
25,000,000	£12,500,000	Ordinary Shares 15,000,000	£12,500,000

The subscription list for the Shares, all of which are being offered to the public under the Offers, will open at 10.00 am on 11 December 1998 and may be closed at any time thereafter but in any event not later than 10.00 am on 31 March 1999 unless extended prior to that date.

A Prospectus (including an Application Form) in relation to the Company has been published and copies will be available for collection during normal business hours for a period of two business days from the date hereof up to and including 31 March 1999 from:

Blue chips unmoved by base rate cut

ENTHUSIASM evaporated as the stock market decided it was better to travel than arrive. A base rate cut of half a percentage point, which met most expectations, was quickly absorbed and with questions being asked about the merits of the £28bn Zeneca/Astra merger, Footsie ended with an 8.8-point fall to 5,660.3.

But the rumour mill remained active, still grinding out stories that Siebe will encounter a challenge to its bid to take over struggling BT, and that ScottishPower's US ambitions could run into opposition.

Siebe is said to be in the sights of an overseas predator, and there are even suggestions that its affair with BT has a distinct defensive element. Some would no doubt welcome an interventionist strike, as the terms of the engineering merger have not won unanimous support. The fund manager Phillips & Drew, with 10.8 per cent of BT's is known to be unhappy with them.

BT shares were little changed at 124.5p although trading was brisk; Siebe, also in active trading, shaded to 224p.

ScottishPower dived 2p to 827p.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Its shares have felt the weight of the market's displeasure over its merger with PacificCorp, the US utility. They have perked up on talk that the proposed deal will be blown out by a rival offer for PacificCorp.

Zeneca closed 121p down at 2,550p, just 70p above the price ruling ahead of the merger announcement.

Although lacking the excitement evident earlier this week, the market nevertheless had a busy session with share turnover topping 1 billion. Bed and breakfast deals, often be-

tween related funds and aimed at locking in profits, helped to balloon volume.

Footsie swung between a 43.6 gain and a 54.5 fall. A weak New York helped to restrain blue chips. Supporting shares ended moderately higher.

The interest rate cut had the predictable impact on house-builders and retailers. For example Barratt Developments rose 10.5p to 225.5p and Marks & Spencer 12.5p to 418p.

But Harvey Nichols slipped 1.5p to a 116.5p low following disappointing trading comments.

Celtel Telecom was again the best performing Footsie constituent, hitting another peak with a 53p gain to 926p. It was one of the companies taking part in a telecom conference hosted by Lehman Brothers.

TeleWest Communications was another telecom share to move ahead, ringing a 5.5p gain to 151.5p after an investment presentation.

Orange managed to firm 8p to 616p despite bearish comments from HSBC, which increased its loss estimates from £26m to £186m and from break-even to a £123m deficit.

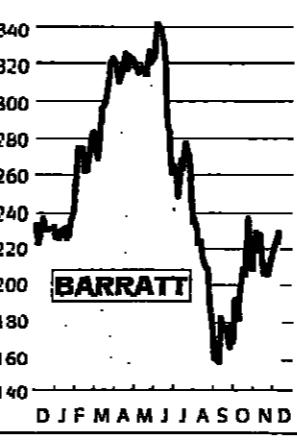
Energis jumped 60p to 1,292.5p on a mixture of takeover rumours and support from Morgan Stanley, which upgraded its target price to 1,600p. The investment house also lifted its National Grid target from 540p to

1,200p. The shares jumped 9p to 31.5p, a high, after it became known the former pubs company was in talks with an IT training business. Any deal is likely to include a cash raising exercise. Dalkeith, a plantation group before it moved into pubs, has lived recently off its cash board, making profits of £397,000 in its last year.

260p; the shares rose 14.5p to 505.5p.

EMI was in a spin, off 6p to 368p after ABN Amro suggested a 30 per cent dividend cut, and cautious comments from Credit Lyonnais left the mortgage bank Alliance & Leicester 13p off at 883p. Northern Rock

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



BARRATT

Source: Bloomberg

posed Bovis sale to WS Atkins was called off. Atkins rose 77.5p to 532.5p. Railtrack continued to suffer from Wednesday's regulatory strictures, falling 40p to 1,417p.

BICC, the cable and construction

main firm, up a further 6.5p to 253.5p. It is thought to be eyeing parts of GRE, the Guardian Royal Exchange insurance group, which has indicated it is open to offers.

Express Dairies, 8.5p higher to 144p, was back on the takeover round, and the computer group Iliion, up 5p to 56.5p, was said to be in the sights of Azan.

Arriva's failure to sell its leasing operations continued to undermine the shares, off a further 12.5p to 360p.

The lack of bid action lowered First Leisure Corporation 7p to 225.5p and Sears, the retail chain, 13.5p to 257p.

Jones & Shipman put on 5.5p to 18p following the 20p-a-share cash bid from fellow engineer Renold. Barbican Healthcare jumped 30p to 112.5p as Bupa emerged as the signalled bidder, offering 117p a share. But Chiroscience, on the growing possibility that its anaesthetic drug alliance with Zeneca will be terminated following the Astra deal, lost a further 25p to 247.5p.

SEAG VOLUME: 1 billion
SEAG TRADES: 67,678

MERRYDOWN, the cider and soft drink group, edged ahead 1p to 28.5p after Nigel Popham at stockbroker Teather & Greenwood suggested the slimmed down operation was back in the black.

He suggested profits of £1m this year, £1.8m next and then £2.1m.

Last year the little group, born out of the hobby developed in a wartime prison camp by two former prisoners of war, suffered an £8.3m loss.

group, firmed to 62p as aggressive Wassall lifted its stake to 9.1 per cent. The packaging group Norcor added 1p to 50p after its rival Limpac again increased its shareholding; it now has 21.84 per cent. Independent Insurance re-

slipped 10p to 550p as BT Alex Brown trimmed its profit hopes.

The Shell oil giant dipped 7.25p to 354.75p following management changes. It meets analysts on Monday. Lehman remains cautious "until we see the adoption of realistic targets and action on underperforming assets".

P&O, the shipping group, slipped 15p to 697p after its pro-

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SPORT



Manchester United striker Andy Cole is surrounded by Bayern Munich defenders, but still manages to fire off a shot during Wednesday night's Champions' League match at Old Trafford, which ended 1-1 David Ashdown

English clubs still playing catch-up

THE FATUOUS suggestion that the Premiership is "the best league in the world" took its annual dent this week. December is culling season in European football's club competitions and, once again, when the quarter-finalists were counted it did not take long to add up the English contribution.

As usual Manchester United will be joined, when the competitions resume in the spring, by the Premiership's European Cup-Winners' Cup entrant. This is one competition English clubs have got to grips with, achieving six-quarter-finals - and two wins - in the seven seasons since the Premiership began. Not a bad record, but it is no coincidence that it is the weakest of the competitions. This year's last eight includes, for example, such internationally renowned clubs as Valerenga, Panionios, Varekai Verazdin, Panionios, Macabi Haifa and Real Mallorca.

In the two other competitions England have managed six quarter-finalists between them. This compares to 15 French qualifiers, 13 Spanish, 19 German and a staggering 24 from Italy. Indeed, during this period the Italians have had at least one quarter-finalist in every competition, every year, winning a third of the trophies.

Thus Internazionale and Juventus will be high among the teams Manchester United wish to avoid in the quarter-final draw though not half as much as Chelsea will be eager to avoid Lazio in the Cup-Winners' Cup. Should these teams stay apart they seem certain to meet in

the Villa Park final come May. United have a more daunting task ahead. An optimist will note that they were unbeaten in four meetings with Bayern Munich and Barcelona, a pessimist will point out they also failed to beat either side. Similarly they qualified by the back door but were the highest goalscorers and one of only two unbeaten teams (the other was Juventus).

Now there is a lull during which manager Alex Ferguson will consider whether he needs to strengthen the squad. "Why do you always ask that?" was his response when his intentions were enquired of on Wednesday night. The reason is

Alex Ferguson must think about buying if Manchester United are to make their presence felt in Europe. By Glenn Moore

that last year United were the only quarter-finalist not to strengthen and they went out straight away having had to field an injury-hit side against Monaco.

Ferguson suggested that Juventus, whom he holds up as a European benchmark in much the same way domestic rivals regard United as their guideline, had merely added depth to their squad but they did sign Edgar Davids as well as two supplementary players. Real's spending

was even more influential as they invested more than £10m in Christian Karembeu of France and the Brazilian, Savio. Though Savio suffered injury Karembeu scored important goals in the quarter and semi-finals and played in the final.

The deadline for new signings is 31 January and only players who have not participated in any of the three European competitions this season will be eligible.

Given that United had a full squad

to choose from yet failed to defeat Bayern at home on Wednesday, strengthening may be required. The team do not convince defensively and that would appear to be the area to invest in.

However, as Liverpool have found, it is no easier to buy top quality defenders or goalkeepers than it is to acquire forwards.

The extra worry for Ferguson, given the intensity of the English game, is the problem of injured and

jaded players. It is this that might force him into the market.

"They have the ability, it is a question of whether they will still be fresh come March," he mused. "While teams like Kiev are having a break we're battling through winter. They will go on a nice trip to the Canary Islands, while we are battling through the winter. I think we should take a leaf out of Scotland's book and take a January break. We have seven games this month. It taxes you."

"I thought Arsenal would go through but they suffered with injuries, that is what can happen. That is why you need a big squad. I'll be delighted if I can pick from a

COUNTRY BY COUNTRY

Total number of teams left in the three European club competitions

Italy 5
Bologna*, Internazionale, Juventus, Lazio, Parma*, Roma*

Spain 4
Atletico Madrid*, Celta Vigo*, Real Madrid, IReal Mallorca

France 3
Bordeaux*, Olympique Lyonnais*, Marseilles*

England 2
Chelsea, Manchester United

Germany 2
Bayern Munich, Kaiserslautern

Greece 2
Olympiakos, Panionios Athens

Croatia 1
Varekai Verazdin

Israel 1
Maccabi Haifa

Norway 1
Valerenga

Russia 1
Lokomotiv Moscow

Ukraine 1
Dynamo Kiev

Uefa Cup: 1 Cup-Winners' Cup

full squad come March but a lot can happen before then. I would be delighted if I were in that position because it is so important to have all your players." To underline Ferguson's concern, Denis Irwin, injured against Bayern, is doubtful for tomorrow's trip to Tottenham.

Ferguson has been linked with a fresh move for Lens midfielder Marc-Vivien Foé, who was set to move to Old Trafford until he broke his leg before the World Cup, but when pressed if he would be bringing in any new faces, Ferguson replied: "It's difficult to say, but I think our squad is not too bad."

In a vindication of Uefa's expansion of the competition, United are one of three domestic runners-up to make the last eight, a third bid increase on last season. Five of the octet were among the 16 clubs selected by Media Partners in the summer to be in the putative European SuperLeague. Of the three that upset the commercial order, Kaiserslautern, Olympiakos and Dynamo Kiev, the Ukrainians look best-placed to go all the way.

Ferguson said he wished Arsenal had gone through as they would then have suffered the same conflict of interests as United will. That Chelsea, whose squad strength is the only one to match United's, also remain involved means European competition may have the same impact on the Premiership as a handicapper at a horse track. Just as long as nobody thinks the race is a classic, compared to Serie A it is more like a selling plate.



Arsenal players celebrate another goal in the 3-1 midweek win over Panathinaikos

Arsenal's next generation gun for permanent places

There is good news on the horizon for the English Double-winners as they go about reshaping their season. By Kieran Daley

TONY ADAMS, who aggravated a back injury in a Champions' League game last month, has had surgery and faces a long lay-off. The England international defender, currently resting in Florida, said in a prepared acceptance speech for a television award that the operation had already been carried out.

"I've had a busy week," he said. "My father's had a heart attack; I've been looking after him and my three children, plus I've had an operation on my back, which has gone very, very well." Arsenal can ill afford to lose Adams, with injuries to Emmanuel Petit, Marc Overmars and Dennis Bergkamp.

The Arsenal understudies who renewed hope for the club's future on Wednesday night with their stirring victory over Panathinaikos will step back into the shadows for a while as Arsène Wenger refocuses on defending the Premiership title.

Arsenal travel to Aston Villa on Sunday to face the League leaders to

down to fifth place in the Premiership and the Gunners, who have not won in the League since the 1-0 success againstEverton on 8 November, now need points before starting their FA Cup defence in the New Year.

Wenger, who signed a new four-year Highbury contract this week, will stick to his policy of refusing to pay exorbitant prices and wages for players. He admits he still needs another experienced striker, but the critics who accused him of having too little quality back-up among his reserves were silenced by the triumph in Athens.

He said: "We have shown we have young players who are better than many people thought. The nucleus of the next generation is there."

Arsenal's youngsters will never forget their night in Europe, especially teenagers David Grodin, the French Under-18 international left-back signed from St Etienne for £500,000 in the summer, and Paolo Vernazza, the north London-born son of an Italian father whose performance in only his third senior appearance was described by veteran Steve Bould as "tremendous".

Bould added: "He is one of the best I've seen in the youth ranks here. He is quality and is going to be a great player."

The acting captain admitted to the mistake which gave Panathinaikos short-lived equality when the substitute Igor Sypniewski scored in Athens, but will continue to deputise for the recovering Adams at Villa Park with the aid of pain-killers for a badly bruised toe. ■ Arsenal have announced their 18-year link with the Japanese electronics manufacturer JVC will end at the completion of the season.

Doping experts berate lack of funding to find reliable testing method for new generation of performance-enhancers

Athletes in fear of the EPO era

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

A SIGNIFICANT number of elite British athletes are concerned that there is widespread use within their sport of erythropoietin, or EPO, the banned blood booster which was at the heart of the controversy which all but wrecked this year's Tour de France cycling race.

Of those track and field athletes who took part in *The Independent's* drug survey, 27 per cent said they felt fellow competitors were illegally improving their endurance by taking the synthetic hormone which raises the red blood-cell count and enables more oxygen to circulate around the body.

Meanwhile Dr David Cowan, one of Britain's leading doping analysts, has criticised the lack of funding towards finding a reliable test for EPO.

"Research in this area seems to have petered out," Dr Cowan, who heads the Drug Control Centre in Chelsea, said. "I would like to see EPO cracked. Around \$2m (£1.2m) would probably see the problem rapidly solved. Certainly \$1m a year over the next five years would solve it - or \$5m over a shorter time."

Dr Cowan believes the cost would be relatively small considering the resources available to the pharmaceutical industry, the International Olympic Committee and even the world governing body for

Ancient Olympians took asses' hooves, ground, boiled and flavoured in rose hip petals' to stimulate performance

athletics, the International Amateur Athletic Federation, which is currently offering a \$1m jackpot to any athlete remaining unbeaten in its Golden League series.

"The Sports Council has had no money for research in the last five years," Cowan said. "For the pharmaceutical industry, what we would need to crack EPO is a relatively small amount of money."

"Athletes see the doping control programme as very uneven - they don't think we are doing enough. We just have to keep pushing on and seeing what we can do to improve the situation."

"Craig Reedie, the chairman of the British Olympic Association and co-representative for Britain, along with Princess Anne, in the IOC, fully supports Cowan's view. 'It's a relatively tiny amount of money,' he said. 'Research is where more money should be spent now.'

There is no reliable or legally acceptable method yet devised to determine abuse in this area because it is, impossible to detect which non-carrying red blood cells are natural and which have been stimulated by injecting the hormone which stimulates their production.

Research in Sweden has shown that EPO can improve performance by up to 15 per cent, but it has deadly side-effects if used to excess. One rider in this year's Tour talked of how injecting the substance could



The British distance runner Jon Brown fears growing EPO use: "Two years ago it was virtually non-existent, but now main players are operating on it." *Empics*

turn blood "to jam". The practice has been linked with numerous deaths through strokes or heart attacks among cyclists from Holland and Belgium in recent years.

The fears among athletes revealed by *The Independent's* survey fit in with the views expressed earlier this year by Jon Brown, Britain's leading 10,000 metres runner.

Brown, who set a new British record for the event this season, reiterated his concerns about the misuse of EPO in Budapest after missing out on a European medal by one place.

"Even two years ago I would say it was virtually non-existent in distance running, but I think now you have got some main players operating on the stuff," he said. "A lot of weird stuff has gone on over the past 18 months."

Brown's suspicions rested with European, rather than African athletes, especially those who had close ties with doctors and

masseurs involved in cycling. "Once you go down that road, the same as cycling - sport is not real sport. In cycling, it is team policy and if you do not do it, you have not got a chance. I would not like to see distance running go that way. Blood testing is a way forward but I do not see that happening for another five years."

The game of trying to gain an extra edge in competition is a timeless one. In the 3rd Century BC, according to the writer Galen, ancient

Olympic competitors tried to enhance their performance by taking "the rare hoofs of an Abyssinian ass, ground up, boiled in oil and flavoured with rose-hips and petals."

In recent years, hooves have been replaced by anabolic steroids and stimulants. But since Ben Johnson's notorious fall from hero to zero after his positive steroid test at the 1988 Olympics, the eternal chase between testers and cheaters has moved onto new ground.

"What was once a game of pharmacology has turned into a game of endocrinology," Dr Robert Voy, the former chief medical officer of the United States Olympic Committee, says. "Steroids and stimulants have given way as athletes have turned towards hormonal manipulation as the in-vogue doping technology."

The use of human growth hormone - HGH - is the other major area of concern to those in charge of combating doping abuse worldwide. But for this substance - which also has potentially fatal side effects - a reliable test is clearly visible on the horizon.

A \$2m research programme, jointly funded by the IOC and the European Community, has arrived at a method of testing for abuse of HGH after collecting blood samples from more than 700 elite athletes since the start of 1995, the last of which were taken from competitors

at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

"The results are every bit as good as we hoped they would be," Peter Sonksen, the project head and professor of endocrinology at St Thomas's Hospital, said. "We will present our final research to the IOC at the end of the year, and although time is short, it is our intention to have things in place by the time of the 2000 Olympics."

Sonksen, who will update the IOC medical commission on his work at their meeting in Lausanne this week, does not foresee any serious difficulty in asking competitors to give blood samples. "I don't see there is any major problem with implementing blood testing," he said, pointing out that a legal precedent has already been set by the blood testing undertaken at the Winter Olympics of 1994. Brown, it seems, will have one of his wishes earlier than he expects.

Baulch says 400m runners use drugs

One of Britain's leading runners says cheats are ruining his sport.
By Ian Pocock

JAMIE BAULCH, one of Britain's leading 400m runners, has accused some of the world's top competitors in his event of using illegal drugs. While not willing to name anyone involved talk about the specific substances being abused, the Welshman said: "It's a real shame when I am out there training everyday to be No 1 and you know that there is somebody in front of me and behind me who is taking the stuff."

"You always get it. There is always going to be somebody out there who is going to do something they shouldn't but the problem is that I can't see it ever being stopped."

Baulch's accusations come as *The Independent's* survey of drug use in British sport showed only three per cent of the country's leading men and women in athletics think their sport is clean and 64 per cent do not think current drugs regulations are appropriate and need to be tightened. The survey showed 27 per cent of athletes believe EPO (erythropoietin, a substance which increases the blood's oxygen-carrying capacity) is being abused, 19 per cent cited human growth hormone as a problem and 16 per cent thought fellow athletes were using steroids.

"It would be nice to think that this is something which could go away but the truth is that those who cheat seem to always be one step in front of the testers," Baulch said.

"It [drug taking by other athletes] really frustrates me and I am not against them [the authorities] doing blood tests to make sure it doesn't happen but I can't see that they can stop the problem."

Baulch's claims come at the end of a season where he battled back from a blood disorder which threatened to destroy his career. After a gruelling rehabilitation schedule, he returned to the international arena, for Wales, at the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia, only just missing out on a medal.

The diminutive sprinter rose to the heights of world No 1 on the indoor circuit last winter but has never been tempted toward the drug culture affecting international sport. The fate of East German sportsmen and women especially has highlighted the potential future of those who have chosen that path paved with EPO, growth hormone and steroids.

"I have never wanted to take drugs," Baulch said. "Despite it being illegal, you don't know what the effects are. We're seeing now some of those effects with the East German athletes and if you did take drugs, it must be of huge concern to you."

"It is not for me to make the big decisions over testing but whatever test they can do, they should." Many athletes responding to *The Independent's* survey called for the introduction of mandatory blood testing to be introduced - instead of urine tests, currently the most common type - but there is little hope of such measures being introduced in the near future.

Baulch's anger at the cheats stems from his fear that athletics is becoming irreversibly damaged and that the war against drugs is being lost. "It is so bad for the sport," he said. "And it is because I can't see that anything can be done, that I am so angry."



Baulch: Angry at drug takers

TOMORROW

"I always thought I needed drink or drugs to be confident to chat to people ... I tried ecstasy, speed, cocaine, most things really. Booze was the worst drug of them all. I put everyone I lived with through hell!"

Footballer Shane Nicholson talks exclusively about drugs, the Marchwood Priory clinic, and his return to the game

WEDNESDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.

Draw date: 09/12/98. The winning numbers: 1, 7, 39, 40, 45, 49. Bonus number: 38. Total Sales: £26,513,885. Prize Fund: £12,831,248 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	2	£2,344,445	£4,688,890
Match 5 plus bonus ball	6	£240,455	£1,442,730
Match 5	380	£2,504	£950,440
Match 4	18,195	£109	£1,983,255
Match 3	381,415	£10	£3,824,160
TOTALS	399,978		£12,831,248

Breakage figures rounded down to nearest £1: £783.20.

Maybe, just maybe. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer system shall prevail.

McCoy's gentle touch rewarded

CONTRARY TO his own expectations, Tony McCoy was yesterday able gently to extract the best out of the reluctant hurdler Bamapour, the Martin Pipe-trained horse responsible for the champion jockey's 14-day suspension for misuse of the whip.

Punters who perhaps had taken note of McCoy's opinion prior to yesterday's race at Taunton that success on Bamapour would be hindered by the more restrained whip action he must now employ, allowed the eight-year-old to start as the 10-1 outsider of the six-runner field.

However, he battled on strongly after leading three flights out to get the better of Papua by a couple of lengths, with McCoy resorting to his stick only a handful of times.

"He felt a bit sweater and fresher today as the trainer's a superb genius," McCoy said, "but I rode him exactly the

way out as I did at Fontwell, the only difference being he kept running for me today."

Some will argue that this success proves that McCoy can achieve results with recalcitrant horses without resorting to the full force of his armoury. But it also shows that mentally, as well as physically, Bamapour was undamaged by his exertions at Fontwell.

Another significant result at Taunton was the victory of Fourth In Line, who ended a losing run for Venetia Williams. "We've had more beaten favourites than anything else since Teeton Mill won the Hennessy Gold Cup and I was getting a bit worried," Williams said.

Pipe and McCoy have been denied the opportunity to saddle the favourite for tomorrow's Tripleprint Gold Cup as Cyfor Malta has suffered a slight setback, but the same

end up being favourite for the Champion Hurdle," he added, tongue tucked in cheek.

"I don't want to look back as far as I'm concerned Fontwell isise of the whipping misdemeanour) is over. I'm not going to change the way I ride as I'm out there to win but I'll have to do that within the rules.

"The horse ran sweater

today but I kicked on him a fair

horse does now have the Grand National as its primary target.

The British Horseracing Board yesterday sanctioned a change in the rules that will allow six-year-olds - as Cyfor Malta will be next April - to run in the Aintree marathon. Under the previous rules, no horse under the age of seven was permitted to run.

Todays card at Cheltenham has also benefited from a change in race conditions, with several top chasers having been diverted south from tomorrow's Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock where, bizarrely, they would have had to meet Suny Bay, Britain's top chaser, at disadvantageous weights. Among those switched are Stratford Royal, Senior El Retrato and Cool Dawn, who is aiming to recapture the winning form that brought him the Gold Cup over the track last March.



Cool Dawn returns to the scene of his greatest triumph at Cheltenham today

Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

CHELTENHAM

HYPERION
12.10 Tom Paddington
12.45 Spendid
1.20 Freelander
1.55 Brave Tomato

GOING: Good. ■ Cheltenham galloping course with stiff fences. Uphill run-in of 240yd. ■ Slight N or E of town of 4/40s. Bus link from Cheltenham station (served by Bristol, Birmingham and London Paddington). 2m. ADDMISSION: Club & Tattersalls combined £12. Owners 10% off. 20% Course Enclosure £12. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 40 winners from 262 runners (success rate 15.3%). D Nicholson 28/96 (14.3%), N Twiston-Davies 21/20 (10.0%), J Gifford 16/18 (8.3%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 39 wins from 150 runners (success rate 26%). N Williamson 33/54 (21.4%), R Dunwoody 32/57 (16.3%), J Osborne 23/120 (20.8%).

FAVOURITES: 2/1 Spendid in 501 races (40.3%).

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: None.

12.10 NAAS RACES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 3yo 2m 11 Penalty Value £4,577

1 HIT AND RUN (9) (D) [G S Morris & Miss J] K H M Pipe 11 3... A P McCoy

2 TOM PADINGTON (10) (M) [S Wilson & Wilson H] Merton 11 3... J Osborne

3 ALABAD (7) [Lock Brown L] Murphy 11 0... R Farnell

4 MASTER TURN (24) (P) [McManus] J J O'Farrell 11 0... R McDonald

5 NEW BIRD (29) (P) [Egan] P Egan & D Nicholson 11 0... A Maggs

6 PROPHET (13) (M) [Morgan & Mrs J Key] V Ward 11 0... N Williamson

7 AMOROSO (3) (T) [The Saxon Horse] N Weston 11 0... M Flanagan

8 - declared -

BETTING: 11/8 Hit and Run, 3/1 Tom Paddington, 5/1 New Bird, 1/1 Master Turn, 10/1 Amoroso.

FORM GUIDE

Hit And Run: Has won all four starts over hurdles, at Newton Abbot, Sedgfield, Cheltenham (from unlikely Doctor Goddard) and Sandown (from Navaneen Samson). Tom Paddington: Last seen when won 2m novice race at Wincanton (2nd good to soft) in a good race with 6 lengths to spare. Very promising.

Alabad: Highly raced and disappointing on Flat for Michael Scudamore, second in two meetings at around 14f. Was also third in minor.

Master Turn: Winner on Flat in France, but failed to find his form in Britain.

New Bird: Last-tame-out winner RIO'S KING, 2nd, good effort, prominent to 3 out.

Prophet: Sister to his stablemates leading hurdler Sharpslair. Fair 9t winner on Flat for Chris Thornton, sold for 16,000 guineas at the Autumn Sales.

VERDICT: New Bird and Amoroso are newcomers from top stables and have to be respected, but this should go to HIT AND RUN or Tom Paddington. Master Turn improving from his last run, but Hit and Run has the edge in experience and can make a bit against Tom Paddington, whose Flat form and impressive hurdling debut were all registered on softer ground.

12.45 FRED AND MERCY RIMMEL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 3m 11 110yds Penalty Value £5,710

1 32/1 SPENDID (28) (D) [Stewart Cathwood] D Nicholson 6/11 12... A P McCoy

2 1/1 DERRIMORE MIST (34) (D) [H Norden & D Miller] P Nichols 6/11 12... J Tizzard

3 2/21 SHORE PARTY (14) (M) [Moul & Nuttall] N Weston 6/11 8... C Llewellyn

4 20/22 BOLSHIE BARON (33) (M) [H Weston] M Weston 3/1 4... S Kelly (5)

BETTING: 8/11 Spendid, 11/1 Shore Party, 4/1 Derrimore Mist, 20/1 Bolshie Baron.

1997: Edgesome 6/11 12 R Dunwoody 12/1 Hobbs 3 ran

FORM GUIDE

Spendid: Game staying who loves the track. Twice a hurdles winner here and 2-lengths too good for Moncor Express (Song Of The Sea) 2 lengths further back over course and distance last time despite an early mistake (Shore Party unseated 4th).

Derrimore Mist: Fairyhouse bumper winner and twice successful at Wincanton, last seen when beaten in a 1m4f listed race at Newbury. Last-tame-out winner of the 2m2f Listed Tattersalls Plate at Sandown.

Shore Party: Fairly useful 1m6f winner for Michael Scudamore, second in 10/1 lengths of 8 to Santini at Newcastle (2nd, good effort, prominent to 3 out).

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Taylor tries to bring calm to the storm

AFTER THE scandal and the guilt comes the coping, and Australia turned to its most eminent lay therapist to try and soothe the nation's fevered brow. Mark Taylor may have no other credentials than being captain of his country, but he cuts a mighty impressive figure. If anyone can ease the nation's time on the couch, after the revelations that Shane Warne and Mark Waugh were fined after accepting payments from a bookmaker in Sri Lanka four years ago, it is the man from Wagga Wagga.

Therapy, at least the type Taylor deals in, does not involve hypnosis or regression: just a simple straight-talking country boy. He looks as honest from two inches as he does hundred paces, and there aren't many you can say that about. At a press conference before the first day's play of the third Test here, Taylor's calm authority was as sensible as the previous day's revelations had been alarming.

When every man and his dog suddenly acts as judge, jury and executioner things tend to get distorted. Gently but firmly, like a gun-dog's grip, Taylor reminded us of the human element, and what it is to be imperfect in an increasingly accountable world.

"Mark and Shane made a mistake," Taylor said. "They admitted that. As a player, I have a problem with either the one and I've enjoyed playing cricket with them. Their records show they've been great players for Australia."

Past glory was obviously a consideration for Nike, who despite the sudden burst of bad publicity, decided to continue their sponsorship of Warne. In a statement issued yesterday, the sportswear giants made it clear that although they did condone Warne's actions, they felt he had regretted his decision and learnt from his mistakes.

CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Adelaide

But damage is not always limited to the individual involved and one of the potential side-effects of a furor like this one is that those closest to them may also be affected. Having Mark Waugh off-colour is one thing, but team-mates, especially those who knew nothing of the scandal until it broke, must try not to get emotionally involved. It is a difficult balancing act and one Taylor addressed immediately.

"I asked all the players individually if they had a problem with Mark or Shane. They didn't and the pair have our full 100 per cent support. This will certainly not divide the Australian cricket team."

I've also spent a few moments with Mark too. He's probably not in the best state of mind at the moment, he'd be superhuman if he was."

"It's a nice idea for the International Cricket Committee to have total power over what is right and wrong, but I'm not sure it will work in practice. Cricket is comprised of different countries and cultures and opinions vary accordingly."

At the moment Taylor believes it will be a full-time job confronting the present, though one he feels his team can handle. Like Australia II's revolutionary keel back in 1983, the Aussie captain has the kind of stabilising influence that many will be relying on to make good the wrongdoing of both the two players and the A.C.B.

As most therapists will tell you, however, little can be achieved without self-help and common sense. "I believe what the public wants most is to see good cricket and that is what we must continue to provide. That will heal the wounds quicker than anything."

Waugh's and Warne's dealings with a bookie.

"In hindsight, yes, I think the inquiry should have been told. Had I been asked about in Lahore it would certainly have been my worst question. I would have answered it truthfully, but it wasn't asked."

Although never approached by anyone offering money or favours, Taylor has however, been involved at close quarters in the subsequent investigation. Like many, he wants the guilty brought to justice, though he does not share the pessimism of those who feel that the main evidence is likely to be discredited.

"While I was in court in Lahore, the most damning evidence came from the Pakistan players, not from Waugh."

And yet despite the obvious need for a cohesive investigation into such matters, he does not feel that an international watchdog would help to clear the mess up.

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The expert touch of boxing's 'diplomat'

WHEN ARCHIE MOORE arrived here in May 1956 to defend the undisputed light-heavyweight championship against Yolande Pompey bet he was foolishly struck on the basis of his corpulence.

Getting together with Moore at his training quarters in Windsor, boxing writers of the time asked how he could possibly make the 12st 7lb limit without going to the ring in a weakened condition.

Moore, who was probably around 14st at the outset of his preparation, told them not to worry. "I was given a secret recipe by a dying Aborigine under a gumtree in a desert near Woorawoorooroo. At least I figured he was dying – he looked mighty sick," he

said. "I was in Australia at the time, which was just as well because that was where he was. And he made me promise I would never tell the secret of this semi-vanishing oil until he died. Well, how do I know he's dead? I ain't taking no chances."

As the *Daily Mirror*'s sport's columnist of that era pointed out, Moore actually had not been in Australia since the summer of 1940, "and spent most of the time in such 'deserts' as Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney" – but, course, this cast absolutely no reflection on the story.

In truth, Moore's weight loss was brought about by punishing sessions in the gymnasium for which he wore a sweat suit tightened at the neck, wrists

and just above his knees. The sweat which poured off his muscular body was enough to fill a tea cup.

Another of the disciplines Moore employed to meet the problem of making a weight at which he was no longer comfortable was unsettling for fellow diners.

Like most fighters Moore was a hearty eater and supportive of the contemporary theory that steaks provided most nourishment. But, ever mindful of his weight, Moore would chew and chew until he had got all the goodness out

of the meat and then discard the tissue into a bucket.

It was not a losing battle, things did not work out entirely to Moore's satisfaction. On the morning of the fight, before weighing in, he had to spend some time in a Turkish bath, which explained why he had to pace his effort carefully before stopping Pompey in the 10th round.

Moore's prudent strategy combined with Pompey's understandable reluctance to take chances made quickly for a contest that did not fulfil expectations. Taking heed of

the crowd's growing displeasure the referee, Jack Hart, warned Moore that unless he put action into his work he would forfeit his title.

Afterwards, in his dressing room, Moore was asked if he had been worried by Hart's admonishment. With great dignity, Moore replied: "I thought he was very rude."

Long before an explosion in the telecommunications industry, Moore was internationally famous, a fighter of three decades whose true age was a mystery. His mother said he was born in 1913, making

him almost 35 on his death this week. Moore insisted he was born in 1916. His mother said he was born in Benoit, Mississippi; Moore said it was Collingsville, Illinois.

There was nothing mysterious about Moore's prowess in the ring, however. Cagey, evasive and a fast puncher he held the light-heavyweight title for 10 years from 1952 – by then 39 longer than any other fighter. When Moore did not like the way he was treated by the boxing community, he campaigned against perceived wrongs.

When a sanctioning body threatened to take away his title for refusing to defend it at their time of bidding, he appealed to the United Nations. President Eisenhower once



Moore in the gym last year

"How can you be so sure?" he was asked. "Because I'm an expert," he replied.

All the men Moore fought – including Rocky Marciano, and Muhammad Ali for the heavyweight title (when he was 49) – conceded that to him.

Bruce is a no-go area, United told

SHEFFIELD UNITED have said they will resist any approach from Manchester United for their manager Steve Bruce, who has been linked with a return to Old Trafford to take over as Alex Ferguson's No 2 following Brian Kidd's move to Blackburn Rovers.

"There has been absolutely no approach from Manchester United for Steve and we would not welcome one," Philip Wood, the Blades' chief executive, said.

Liverpool's manager, Gérard Houllier, is having talks with Bayern Munich's veteran centre-half, Thomas Helmer, with a view to bringing the player to Merseyside on a free transfer. Helmer is looking for around £1m a year, and the salary and the length of contract may yet cause problems.

Chelsea have offered nearly £2m to Argentina's River

FOOTBALL

By NICK HARRIS

Plate for the Spanish international striker Juan Antonio Pizzi. The 30-year-old, who has scored eight goals in 22 appearances for Spain, joined the Buenos Aires club in the summer from Barcelona for £1.2m.

Struggling Oxford United yesterday completed formalities for the sale of their England Under-21 left-back, Simon Marsh, to Birmingham City as they try to stave off their continuing financial crisis.

The eventual fee could hit £400,000, with United receiving an initial payment of £250,000, a further £50,000 after 40 first-team appearances and a further £100,000 if Marsh helps City into the Premiership.

The Rangers chairman,

David Murray, said yesterday he hoped to bring the Borussia Dortmund goalkeeper, Stefan Klos, to Glasgow soon. If his club allows his sale before the end of the season, Rangers will pay a fee. Otherwise he will be a free agent in the summer.

Nigel Martyn and Lucas Radebe yesterday both agreed to extend their contracts with Leeds United by two years.

Jesper Matzsson, from Sweden's Halmstad, has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract with Nottingham Forest. The 30-year-old central defender has been capped once for Sweden.

Wolverhampton Wanderers have appointed the former Bristol City manager John Ward as the new assistant manager at Molineux. Ward, who has also had spells in charge of York City and Bristol Rovers, becomes Colin Lee's deputy.

Ipswich Town are giving Marseille's French Under-21 international right-back Hamada Jambay a one-week trial.

Asian football officials will hold an emergency meeting next Tuesday to decide what action to take, having been awarded only two qualifying slots for the 2002 World Cup.

The European Champions' League was yesterday formally increased to 32 teams at a meeting of the Continent's football governing body, Uefa. It was also confirmed that the UEFA Cup and the European Cup-Winners' Cup will be merged into one tournament from next season. Precise details will be announced today.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: 1999-2000 schedule released by Uefa

July 21: Last day of pre-season rounds

July 22 and 23: Qualifying round

July 24 and 25: Second qualifying round

July 26 and 27: Third qualifying round

July 28 and 29: Fourth qualifying round

August 5 and 6: First group stage

August 12 and 13: Second group stage

August 19 and 20: Third group stage

September 2 and 3: Fourth group stage

September 9 and 10: First knockout round

September 16 and 17: Second knockout round

September 23 and 24: Third knockout round

October 7 and 8: Quarter-finals

October 14 and 15: Semi-finals

October 21: Final

UEFA CUP: 1999-2000 schedule released by Uefa

July 21: Last day of pre-season rounds

July 22 and 23: Qualifying round

July 24 and 25: Second qualifying round

July 26 and 27: Third qualifying round

July 28 and 29: Fourth qualifying round

August 5 and 6: First group stage

August 12 and 13: Second group stage

August 19 and 20: Third group stage

September 2 and 3: Fourth group stage

September 9 and 10: First knockout round

September 16 and 17: Second knockout round

September 23 and 24: Third knockout round

October 7 and 8: Quarter-finals

October 14 and 15: Semi-finals

October 21: Final



China's Xu Shan powers to the fastest qualifying time of 1min 11.43sec in the women's 100 metre breaststroke heats at the Asian Games in Bangkok yesterday. The final was won by her compatriot Li Wei in a time of 1:08.95. She left Xu trailing more than a second behind AP

Leaver still in charge says Premier League

PETER LEAVER is believed to have won his battle to stay on as the Premier League's chief executive after a special meeting of Premiership clubs was held yesterday amid concerns over the appointment of two media advisers.

The meeting was called after last week's scheduled meeting between the 20 clubs when six of them – Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool, Newcastle, Leeds and Wimbledon – demanded to see the financial terms of the contracts offered to Sam Chisholm and David Chancie. Despite having signed a confidentiality clause, the clubs' concerns at the media advisers' potential earnings led to yesterday's meeting in London.

Leaver looked to have survived a potential rebellion, but concerns are still understood to remain among some chairmen at the lucrative terms offered to the former BSkyB executives, Chisholm and Chancie, and the

way in which they were appointed without consultation. Reports had indicated that not only was Leaver ready to resign after the row last week but that he could even be voted out of office by the clubs yesterday afternoon. However, there was not believed to have been a vote of no confidence in him. The general consensus seems to have been that Leaver and the chairman, Sir John Quinton, retain the legal right to make certain decisions without having to refer back to the clubs.

In a statement, the Premier League was keen to emphasise that the clubs had not sought at any stage to oust Leaver from the position he took up 17 months ago. "The clubs have had a useful meeting on a range of issues relating to the appointment of media advisers," the statement said. "There is, despite Press speculation, to be no change to the leadership of the FA Premier League."

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Among the newcomers were the former Lincoln City defender Mark Hone, the ex-Nottingham Forest and Preston midfielder Paul Raynor, and four players from his former club King's Lynn: Lee Hudson, Brett McNamara, Martin Matthews and Craig Hopkins.

The most promising new recruit brought to Kettering by Morris is, however, the 18-year-old forward Ben Wright. Discovered playing for a local village club, Deeping Rangers, Wright has had a trial at Leeds United, for whom he played two games in the FA Premier Academy Under-19 League. Another man to attract the scouts is the 21-year-old midfielder Matt Fisher, who joined the Poppies in the summer after leaving the Army.

A prolific former Kettering striker, Robbie Cooke, is also back at the club, this time in the roles of assistant manager and

Shindler's treatise for addicted and afflicted

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Football

WHAT TRAUMA can turn a nice Jewish boy, grammar school and Cambridge-educated writer and producer of award-winning screenplays, loving husband and doting father, into a "furniture-kicking, door-slamming, growling bear" on Saturday nights? The answer, in *Coin Shindler's Case*, is painfully simple: supporting Manchester City.

When Tony Adams called his book *Addicted* he hit on a word that links the numerous books which, in the wake of *Fever Pitch*, attempt to convey the almost drug-like dependency of otherwise rational human beings on the fortunes of a particular team. Afflicted might have been more apposite for Shindler's case; if not nearly as eye-catching as *Manchester United Ruined My Life* (*Headline*, £14.99).

If any club has ruined his life, it is City; to paraphrase David Niven or Errol Flynn, you can always rely on them to let you down. Yet while there are obvious similarities with the classic of the genre – there was something very Nick Hornby about Shindler's refusal to buy Gillette products after seeing Tommy Docherty advertise them on television – this is not just another football obsessives' book.

It is more autobiographical and deals sensitively with the subject of loss, notably the sudden death of his mother

were going to write this sort of book. I'd never have allowed you access," the manager writes on the dust jacket. "It gets too close. I enjoyed it... I just wish it was about some other club."

The book turns into a struggle between the writer's hunger for knowledge and the insiders' desire to keep their working practices private. Gekoski gleans enough to make it worthwhile, though one can be sure some of the Coventry players felt betrayed by the more revealing material.

His reaction, like any true blue of the day, was to sit bolt upright and wonder aloud why anyone would want to shoot Bobby Kennedy. City's Scottish full-back, when they had just won the League?

Much as Ian Wright claimed that *Fever Pitch* helped him to understand supporters, so Rick Gekoski's *Staying Up: A Fan Behind the Scenes in the Premiership* (*Little, Brown*, £16.99) may give paying customers a clearer, if not always flattering perspective on the objects of their devotion.

An American antiquarian bookseller and Coventry City follower, Gekoski was surprised when the Sky Blues chairman sanctioned his request to hang out with the squad for a season. Not as surprised, it transpires, as Gordon Strachan. "If I'd known you

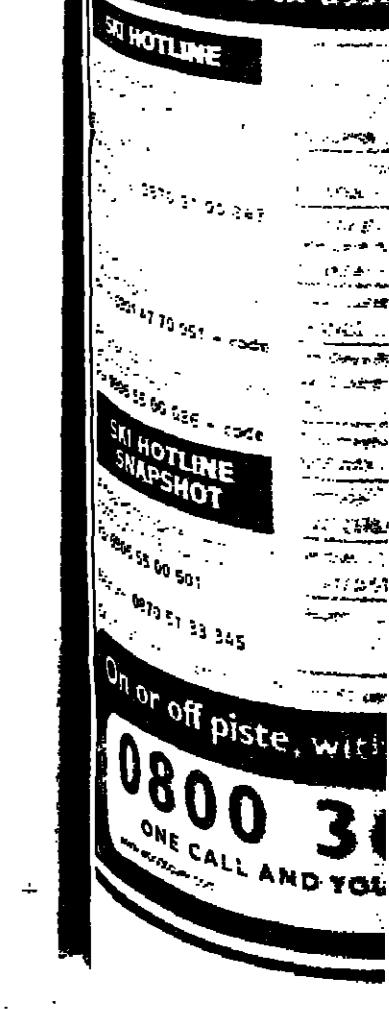


MacLeod: Tragi-comedy

ination of Kennedy (not the Man City one) as what Wilson calls an "I-remember-where-I-was-when-I-heard" experience. One hack recalls the colleague whose column warned against premature euphoria and suggested there were other countries in with a chance. He received a box in the post containing "a giant turd" and a note accusing him of being a traitor.

Finally to "You're Not Singing Anymore" (*Ebury* Press, £2.99), in which Adrian Thrills has collected hundreds of the charts and songs which gave the British game its unique atmosphere, examining their origins and impact as well as the links between football, pop music and youth culture. In an age when all-seater stadiums are killing wit and decibel levels – Old Trafford is often so quiet with 55,000 inside that you can hear Alex Ferguson's chewing-gum – Thrills' researches are as timely as they are entertaining.

Phil Shaw





Australian golfer Greg Norman surveys the Royal Melbourne course where the Presidents Cup competition is being held, the first time it is being staged outside the United States. Reuters

Internationals show united front

FOR A team defined more by where they are not from – America and Europe – than where their origins actually are, the Internationals at the Presidents Cup present a united front. "The one thing we have in common," said Frank Nobilo, "is that we come from over the place. We have a lot of empathy with each other."

Nobilo is one of two New Zealanders on the 12-man team that is playing the Americans in a Ryder Cup style match for the third time but the first outside the United States. Greg Turner, Nobilo's compatriot and partner for the opening foursomes, is a former winner at Royal Melbourne and the historic course is also familiar to the four Australians playing "host" to their teammates.

The side, for whom the national anthems at the opening ceremony went on for almost half an hour, is completed by two Japanese players and one from each of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Fiji and Paraguay. The Fijian is Vijay Singh, the USPGA champion, but the Paraguayan is Carlos Franco, a less heralded player.

Franco is 33 and speaks English usually only through an interpreter. He is one of six brothers and the son of the greenkeeper at the Asuncion Golf Club, one of only three in the country. The young brothers all caddied at the club and Carlos showed aptitude for the game, eventually becoming the big fish in the small pool of the South American Tour.

He moved to Asia, won the Order of Merit and then got

America take on golfers drawn from seven countries in an event that is gaining credence. By Andy Farrell in Melbourne

onto the Japanese Tour, where he has had six victories including two this year. Last month Franco won his card at the US Qualifying School and will play in the States next season. In the meantime he has risen to 39th in the world rankings, good enough for his debut in the Presidents Cup. Past international experience includes being a member of the Paraguayan team that beat Scotland at St Andrews in 1994.

"I put a lot into making the team," Franco said, "and this is my reward." Singh and Nick Price are friends, but Singh has urged Franco not to repeat his experiment of putting with his driver during the Aus-

tralian Open last week. "The intention was to get people to know me," Franco joked.

If anyone is the inspirational leader of the team, and the reason the match was brought to Australia, it is Greg Norman. "One thing you have to respect about the International players," Norman said, "is that for us to achieve the success we've had, we've all had to travel away from our homes, set up our base in a foreign country and make a go of it there."

"What has done is instil a bond between us. The one area where I honestly believe we have an advantage over the Americans is that we are closer as a team."

Norman missed the first Presidents Cup through illness and has only just come back from shoulder surgery. His doctor is concerned about him doing too much too quickly and has told the 43-year-old Australian to rest for six weeks after Sunday.

But even though he may not make 36 holes a day, Norman was never going to miss this week. The private jet has been grounded and Norman is travelling between the course and their downtown hotel on the team bus.

"We have a lot of fun," he said. "We probably have the top three joke-tellers in the world in Steve Elkington, Price and

Nobilo. Get them going with a couple of beers and it is an education."

While the Europeans' team spirit has been a factor at the Ryder Cup, at least they are playing on behalf of a common tour. Most of the Internationals play on the USPGA Tour and, as Norman pointed out, "pay taxes there like everyone else".

The inaugural Presidents Cup had the feel of an "in-house" event, particularly with a 20-12 win for the Americans, but after a dramatic one-point defeat two years ago, the International players told US tour commissioner Tim Finchem the match had to go on.

"I didn't know there was such a thing as professional golf until I was 16. Now kids can see the see people winning major championships as it happens."

"As time goes, on the International team is going to get very strong. The pendulum is going to swing."

Kanavys keep title in the family

EQUESTRIANISM

BY ANDREA PALMER

THE AMERICAN rider Valerie Kanavy regained the title of World Endurance Champion yesterday on High Winds Jedi after the defending champion, her daughter Danielle, retired after her horse took a tumble in the Dubai desert.

The younger Kanavy, who won the title on Peirez four years ago in Kansas, dropped out after her 16-year-old grey gelding, Peirez, took a tumble two miles from the first veterinary checkpoint in the \$300,000 (£190,000) race.

No fewer than 174 riders set off at the crack of dawn at the Abu Dhabi town of Ghantoot and endured high temperatures as they steered their mounts along the 160km (99 mile) course.

"I am delighted to regain the world title, which also makes up a bit for the disappointments of my daughter on our favourite horse, Peirez," said the 52-year-old Kanavy.

Valerie and Danielle Kanavy have both won the world championship on Peirez before, and Valerie Kanavy's win maintains the American hold on the championship since the first competition in 1986.

Fausto Fiorucci, a doctor from Italy, was the dark horse in the field, finishing second on Paris Jaber, another grey gelding, 50 metres behind Kanavy. Japan's Daisuke Yasunaga, who trained in Australia, finished third.

No official timings were released by the organisers. A computer failure meant riders were left without waiting periods for the next stages.

The Emirates, which expected its riders to be among the top three, had to be content with riders in fourth and fifth places.

Dubai's Crown Prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, saw his hopes disappear when his horse, Nelson I, failed an examination at the fourth check point.

The sheik's eldest son, Sheikh Rashid bin Mohammed, also had to retire.

SPORTING DIGEST

BOXING
The current holder of the World Boxing Council's super-middleweight crown, Richie Woodhall, will meet the Italian Vincenzo Nardiello, at Newcastle's Telewest Arena on Saturday 13 February, on the same bill as the encounter between Joe Calzaghe and Robin Hide. On the same bill, Herbie Hide, the World Boxing Organisation's super-middleweight, will make a third defence against Terence Norris while Johnny Nelson is scheduled to meet Bruce Scott, the Commonwealth and British champion, for the WBO cruiser-weight title.

FOOTBALL
Bristol City have signed Christian Edwardson, Nottingham Forest's 23-year-old central defender, on a month's loan.

Torquay United are hoping to sign Neville Southall, the former Everton and Wales goalkeeper, from Doncaster Rovers.

THE TIMES FC YOUTH CUP Second round: postponed. Postponed v Bishop's Stortford.

UEFA TROPHY Second round: postponed. Rothwell Town v Hensol.

AGAU GAMES (Bangkok) Second round: China 6 Oman 1; Iran 5 Tajikistan 2; Thailand 1 Lebanon 0; Kazakhstan 2; Czech 0.

RE-ARRANGED FIXTURES FA Carling Premiership: Stan 7 Marc Middlesbrough 2; Chester (previously playing Sat 6 Jan) 58 Blackpool 2; Leicester v Blackburn (previously 3,0).

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Birmingham 1; Luton 1; Preston 1; Croatia Zagreb 1; Olympiakos 1; Porto 3; Ajax 0; Group B: Athletic Bilbao 1; Galatasaray 0; Juventus 2; Rosenborg 0.

da O Vitease Arnhem 2; Dutch Cup Second round: Emmen 3 Heerenveen 2.

GOLF
The 2001 World Match Play Championship will be staged in Melbourne, Australia. It was announced yesterday, 64 players will play in an elimination match play format over five days, culminating in a 36-hole championship match.

NEW ZEALAND (Auckland) Auckland International: score: 68 P Tazza (NZL), 69 R Pamplin (Aus), 70 M Campbell (NZL), B King (Aus), 72 R Swanson (Aus), 73 P Fowler (Aus), K Booker (Aus), 73 P L Parsons (Aus), S Laycock (Aus), G Coles (Aus), J Benbow 74 M Call (Aus), 75 D O'Farrell (Aus), N O'Hearn (Aus), B Beck (US), E Boutin (NZL), D Choppa (Swe), 76 M Sheppard (Eng), 77 J Rose (Eng), 78 P Smith (Sco).

have also signed three overseas players: the St George pair Willie Poach and Stuart Kenward and the prop forward Frank Whetstone, who captained Auckland Warriors' reserve side this year.

SAILING
Isabelle Autissier, the French solo yachtswoman, was yesterday averaging 16 knots and had opened up a lead of 30 miles over second-placed Giovanni Soldini on the second leg from Cap Town to the end of the Around Alone Race. In Class II, Magellan Alpha's Mike Garside has extended his lead over Jean-Pierre Moulligne to 59 miles.

ICE HOCKEY

Nicky Chin, the Cardiff Devils forward, has just handed a 10-month ban and a £250 fine by the Sekonda Superleague for using his stick recklessly in a match against London Knights.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Castlefroth yesterday signed Darren Rogers, the 24-year-old Salford star. The Reds' top try scorer in 1997 and 1998, has agreed a two-year deal at Wheldon Road.

Wakefield Trinity, the Super League newcomers, have signed Glen Tomlinson, the former Bradford Bulls scrum-half, from Hull Sharks. They

have also signed three overseas players: the St George pair Willie Poach and Stuart Kenward and the prop forward Frank Whetstone, who captained Auckland Warriors' reserve side this year.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Bury v Sheffield Utd (7.45) THIRD DIVISION

Mansfield v Shrewsbury (7.45) FAI HAMPTON NATIONAL

Stevens Bay v St Patrick's Athletic (7.35); Waterford v Sligo Rovers (7.45)

OTHER SPORTS

SWIMMING International Swimming Organisations Inter-continental super-featherweight titles: Michael (holder) v L Armstrong (for France) v Ian Blair (GBR)

SNOWBOARDING European short-course championships (at Sheffield).

TODAY'S NUMBER

7,500
The number of pounds' bonus that swimmer James Hickman will collect under the terms of a new sponsorship deal if he breaks his own world short course 200m record at the European Championships, which begin today in Sheffield.

Continuing tomorrow in
THE INDEPENDENT

THIS IS IT
The Independent Guide to Home Computing

Getting the best out of the Internet

PART 3 - Getting the most out of the Internet

Everything you need to know about Home Computing
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SPORT

FERGUSON'S FORWARD MARCH P24 • AMERICANS THE TARGET P29



Waugh and Warne stand firm

AUSTRALIA WERE preparing yesterday for the third Test match, which was due to start today in Adelaide, but the focus of cricket attention in the country remained on Shane Warne and Mark Waugh and their actions four years ago in Sri Lanka.

It was revealed earlier this week that the two Australian players had been fined after accepting payments from an Indian bookmaker in return for information about the state of the pitch and the weather during a tour of Sri Lanka in 1994.

Further allegations appeared in the Australian press yesterday, although the two players refused to add anything of

CRICKET
By JAKE LYNCH
in Sydney

substance to their story. In Pakistan, meanwhile, there was strong criticism of the Australian Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council for keeping the incident secret at a time when Pakistan was dealing with allegations of match-fixing by its own players.

Waugh and Warne read prepared statements at a news conference in Adelaide yesterday but would not answer questions. Waugh said that he took money from the bookmaker to

provide information he considered "mundane", but that he never discussed team tactics or line-ups. Warne said he deeply regretted the contact with the bookmaker, who gave him money in return for answering routine questions about the state of the pitch and the weather.

There was a chance for reporters to tackle Waugh as he emerged for final net practice, but television pictures showed him meeting inquiries with a rejoinder which made up in straightforwardness for what it lacked in printability.

However, Mark Taylor, the Australian captain, did speak about the two players. He said

they had "made a mistake" but that he never discussed team tactics or line-ups. Warne said he deeply regretted the contact with the bookmaker, who gave him money in return for answering routine questions about the state of the pitch and the weather.

The newspaper said the mysterious "John" had flown to the Sri Lankan capital to watch the Indian team, including his friend, the all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar play in a tournament of one-day matches against Pakistan, Australia and the host nation.

"John", the newspaper said, was able to make contact with Warne and Waugh through Prabhakar, who has never been associated with any allegations that money changed hands. The newspaper expressed puzzlement that the Indian bookmaker who paid the two players was actually with them in Colombo when he paid them.

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Another unanswered question concerns the way in which intelligence about the pay-

ments to Warne and Waugh first reached the Australian Cricket Board. In his statement on Wednesday Waugh said the board had asked him "if I had ever provided information to a bookmaker and I replied I had done so" in 1994. However Alan Crompton, who chaired the board at the time, has said: "My recollection is that the players came to us."

Meanwhile Khalid Mahmood, from the Pakistan Cricket Board, said yesterday that his organisation would take up the issue with the Australian Cricket Board as well as the International Cricket Council. In particular he said it would be

raised at the next ICC meeting next month in New Zealand.

Mahmood said it was distressing that Pakistan had not been informed of the incident despite the fact that Salim Malik, the former Pakistan captain, had himself been accused by Waugh and Warne of offering the two men money to play badly in a subsequent Australian tour of Pakistan. He said the belated disclosure of the confession was unfair to Pakistan players and cricket.

"Our cricket board's stance is always that such a matter should not be swept under the carpet," Mahmood said.

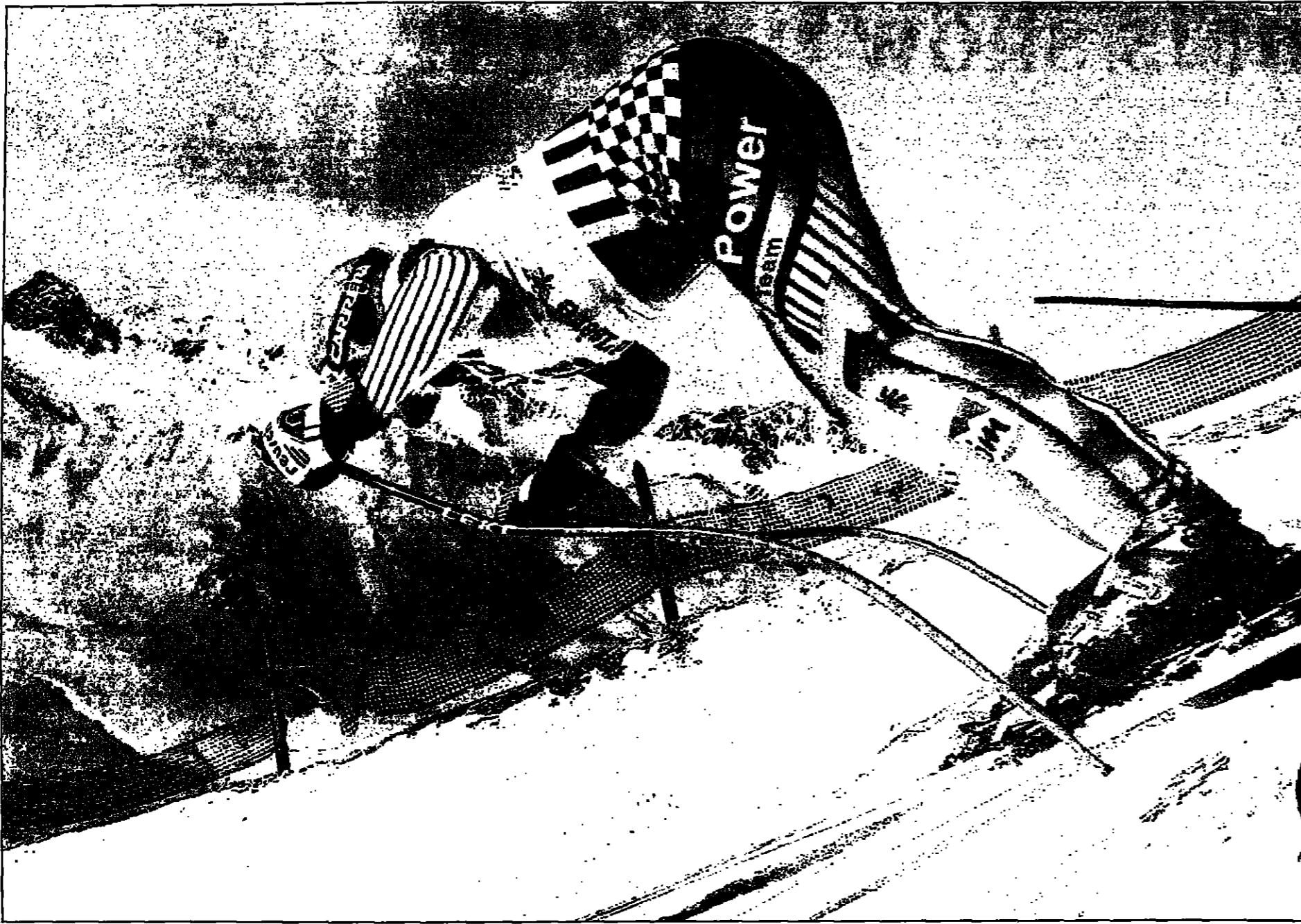
Australia had gone on to

Pakistan immediately after the Colombo tournament. Malik, who captained Pakistan in that series, and two teammates who have also been accused of match-fixing, Wasim Akram and Ijaz Ahmed, deny the allegations, which are now being considered by a judge in Lahore. Waugh's testimony is said to be a key plank of the case against them.

Malik confirmed his intention to sue the Australian pair for damages. "I have suffered so much because of these false charges," he said. "They have ruined my cricket for the past two years."

Derek Pringle, page 27

Downhill all the way now for Maier and the World Cup



Hermann Maier, the reigning overall World Cup champion, sets off on a practice downhill run in Val d'Isère yesterday. The Austrian was preparing for tomorrow's downhill race, which is the traditional opening of the World Cup downhill skiing season in Europe. France's Antoine Denevez was fastest in practice. AFP

Headley given Tudor's place

By MYLES HODGSON
in Adelaide

later in the game persuaded England to recall Such four years after the last of his eight Test appearances against New Zealand at Old Trafford. Robert Croft has played a few games and done okay but now it's time for Peter Such to be given an opportunity.

Tudor, the young Surrey fast bowler, was left out despite his impressive Test debut against Australia at Perth. Instead, Dean Headley was given the third seam place alongside Alan Mullally and Darren Gough as a reward for his impressive display in Melbourne earlier this week.

Graham Gooch, the England tour manager, said: "Alex did very well in Perth, but we have gone for the more experienced bowlers here. This has been the toughest selection meeting I have ever been involved with."

Such has been very much the second-choice spinner on tour. The Essex off-spinner played his last match a month ago against South Australia in Adelaide. Glamorgan's Robert Croft was chosen to play in this week's drawn match against Victoria in Melbourne.

However, Croft's failure to impress at the MCG and Adelaide's tradition for helping spin

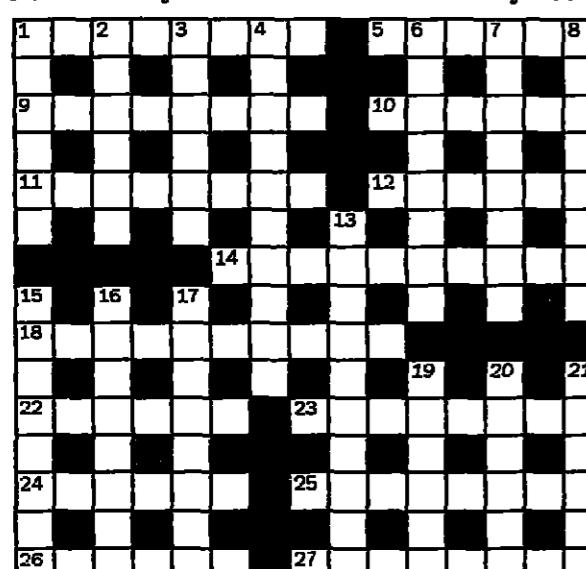
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THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No.3791 Friday 11 December

By Mass

Thursday's solution



ACROSS
1 Piece of verse shows a green strain (8)
5 Peerless, timeless ancient city (6)
9 Songster's piece heard on vessel (6)
10 Cause hospital department trouble (6)
11 Financial number inserted in English weekly (8)
12 Grouping, and sacrificing bishop in dubious game (6)
14 Meals, entertained by band and cabaret (10)
18 Rest for a change? (10)
22 Goon capering round about in a state (6)
23 Independent copies returned with speed (8)
24 Get elected? It's the

devil, they say (6)
25 Applies wrong gloss? (8)
26 Officer kept enlisting gunners (6)
27 Dynamic with a knight, I won the game (8)

DOWN
1 Bird, duck, soaring above snare (6)
2 Game being almost over, made to provide grub (6)
3 Budget speech gives nothing away (6)
4 Driver's fare involving a rumpus (10)
6 Northern priest in spiritual gathering (3-5)
7 Want precocious child to be put out - a pest (5,3)
8 Sunday dish is slosh (8)
9 Choice delicacy (10)
15 Scottish commercial

Hendry's threat to retire

STEPHEN HENDRY, the six-time world champion, revealed yesterday that he is on the brink of quitting the game.

After being knocked out of the German Masters in Vingen, Hendry said: "If I carry on like this I'm seriously thinking of chucking it in at the end of the season."

Hendry was a picture of dejection after slumping to a 5-2 defeat against Malta's Tony Drago in the quarter-finals of the invitation event. "It is just down to confidence. When I haven't got any I hate playing the game," said Hendry, who was whitewashed 9-0 by Scotland's unheralded Marcus Campbell in the UK Championship three weeks ago.

SNOOKER

"The last thing I want to do is take anything away from Tony. He played really well and deserved to win but my form just gets worse and worse."

Hendry, who travels to the Irish Open in Dublin next week, added: "I'll still keep practising, trying to solve the problem and I'll prepare properly for events, but I feel terrible about my game at the moment."

It looked like Hendry had turned the corner after edging Ken Doherty 7-6 in the final of the Rothmans Malta Grand Prix on Sunday to capture the 57th title of his pro-career. But the unforced errors which have haunted Hendry all year resur-

faced as Drago raced to victory in 76 minutes.

Drago, defeated in all of his previous 12 encounters with the sport's dominant force of the 90s, put together a pair of 56 breaks on the way to quickly building a 2-0 lead. Hendry constructed a run of 70 to claim the third, but a 68 break earned Drago a 3-1 advantage before Hendry once again threatened to mount a recovery.

Drago re-established a two-frame cushion at 4-2 by comfortably taking the sixth and led 63-0 in the seventh when he missed a simple pink. On numerous occasions in the past, Hendry has pounced in such a situation but this time he failed to take his chance.

Hamed teams up with Eubank

CHRIS EUBANK has ended his feud with Naseem Hamed by becoming an adviser to the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion.

The bad blood between Eubank and Hamed flared at Heathrow Airport a year ago in a much-publicised bust-up. But they have now settled their differences and become friends.

Eubank, a former WBO mid-lightweight and super-mid-lightweight champion, believes that the time has come to put aside "silly things and get on with life".

He said: "I spoke to George Foreman one day and he told

BOXING

me if I felt wronged by Naz I had to put that behind me and help the kid along. George told me to hug him and take him in."

Eubank, 31, said he speaks often with Hamed. "Naz has the potential to become a good role model," he said.

"My relationship with him is to advise him on certain things. I've spoken to him about things in terms of carrying yourself in a proper fashion. Boxing is a business in which you have to enthrall and infuriate. You have got to be controversial but also show you are human."

One of Eubank's most recent conquerors, Joe Calzaghe, will fight for Eubank's old WBO middleweight crown in February. The Welshman and Robin Reid will meet at Newcastle's Telewest Arena on 13 February in the most appealing of four world title fights on the card.

"I don't think I have the respect I deserve after beating Eubank and my aim is to go into the ring and knock out Reid in four rounds," Calzaghe said. Archie Moore, one of boxing's legendary figures, has died at the age of 84.

Ken Jones, page 28.
Obituary, Review page 6

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Drugs in sport

Sir: I am a powerlifter of international standard, and although I have never taken a performance-enhancing drug, I can fully understand why athletes resort to such measures ("Fears over sport's new legal steroid", 8 December). Being a top-level competitor in any sport necessitates an all-consuming lifestyle. Your sport will dictate your eating and sleeping patterns, dominate your free time and, for strength athletes, leave you with constant muscular pains. It takes dedication and determination to reach the top in Britain and we endure our crippling training schedules in the certain knowledge that in the international arena, we *cannot* win.

I have recently returned from the women's European powerlifting championships in the Ukraine (where Britain achieved a creditable third place). The winning "women" in several weight classes (mostly from Eastern Europe) had deep voices, square jaws, acne and facial hair. These women are not just unfortunately masculine looking. I saw some of the same women two years ago and there have been dramatic changes that could only have been caused by steroid abuse.

Almost every team manager was offered steroids at the competition venue. Our manager was outraged and when she explained that they were illegal in our country, the vendor offered to mix the steroids into a batch of creatine (a legal supplement).

Britain is one of the few countries that undertake out-of-competition random drug testing. Therefore I am certain that we have the cleanest athletes. Other athletes can pump their bodies full of performance-enhancing substances and stop just long enough to clear the chemicals before the competitions.

All countries should have the same drug testing procedures, testing athletes randomly and at any time. All good athletes have an overwhelming desire to win. It is only when international random testing systems are in place that British athletes will have a chance of winning. It is only then that true athletes will not cheat.

ANGELA SEESURUN
London E17

Sir: In drawing attention to the widespread use of legal, but potentially harmful, performance-enhancing methods by sportsmen you have highlighted an area that requires wider debate. At present this debate is stifled, as evidenced by the condemnation heaped upon the president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Samaranch, when he dared to suggest that the distinction between legal and illegal means of performance enhancement was not clear-cut and should be reviewed.

The use of creatine is not the only example of potentially harmful yet legal forms of assisting sporting performance. Many endurance athletes are encouraged to pursue diets which risk osteoporosis and infertility and the risks of long-term colostrum use are unexamined. Neither are we allowed to question the relative safety of currently illegal performance-enhancement methods. For example, might it be safer to complete a 4,000km cycle race in 22 days at an average speed of nearly 40km an hour (as this year's Tour de France competitors were asked to do) with the assistance of carefully monitored erythropoietin administration?

The distinction between what is safe and harmful, natural or a drug, legal or illegal is not as clear-cut as some would like. The result is sport riddled with hypocrisy and athletes at risk.

DR A CURRIE
Wylam, Northumberland,

Sir: Did the original runner of the Marathon die on passing on his important message because he had consumed a performance-enhancing drug?

MARTIN MOTTRAM
Salisbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Winter Visitors No 5: Brent geese fly into Welney to roost for the night

David Rose

Animal wrongs

Sir: Although it would be difficult not to feel the impact of Barry Horne's decision to starve himself to death for his cause, those who campaign for the rights of animals – particularly the extremists, such as Mr Horne, who resort to violent action – miss the point.

The greatest harm inflicted by human expansion is not any pain inflicted on individual animals during experiments, but the continuing extinction of vast numbers of species – mainly insects and therefore not an emotive subject for campaigning – by human expansion worldwide. This tragedy is far greater and breaches a higher right: that of species not to be wiped out. Those who cry out about "torture" would do better to protest against genocide.

CHRIS KEATING
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: I support the right of the animal rights activists to make the moral decision that animal research is wrong ("Animals have no rights, but we still have duties towards them", 9 December). However, they are not forced to do animal research, although in this complex society it would be almost impossible to avoid being a beneficiary of such research. For example, that fact that an individual's chances of catching an infectious disease is extremely low, whether they choose to be inoculated or not, is due to many years of this kind of research.

The targets of this moral decision are inconsistent. Top of the list are colleagues of mine who are involved one way or another with medical research, then come people who farm animals for food, research and skins and not on the list at all are the people who use animals as pets.

The animals used for research in this country have the highest level of control over their conditions (rightly so); there are very few controls on pet ownership. The vast majority of animals in this country that are abused are pets: a

walk around Battersea dogs' home or any RSPCA establishment would show you that.

Most people do not particularly like research being carried out on animals and would not want to do it themselves but can see the benefits to them, their children and society as a whole. Pressure by a few extremists could lead to further unnecessary controls on research involving animals in this country and a serious reduction of work being done here to help with, as yet, incurable conditions such as cancer, dementia and Parkinson's disease. Even worse, animal experimentation will move to other places in the world where there is little or no control on animals used for research.

DR JON ROBBINS
Lecturer in Pharmacology
University of London

Earthbound

Sir: By all means let mankind explore space, but let us have no nonsense that, as Michael de Whalley suggests (letter, 7 December), space exploration will be some sort of solution to the sustaining of life on this planet.

The energy costs of transferring a viable population to an as yet undiscovered new home, or of bringing new resources here,

would be, literally, astronomical, and so prohibitive as to be inconceivable.

There is no need at all to assume the Earth will be devoid of resources next century, as P Evans asserts. Money would be far better spent tidying up the planet, controlling population, stopping pollution, ending the spiralling over-production of oil, eliminating hunger, disease and warfare.

Man has always needed something to reach out to, to expand his imagination. Space exploration will and should continue, simply "because it is there".

W K PIPER
Staplehurst, Kent

The Irish church

Sir: Dr Gerard Hogan's defence of the Irish Constitution (letters, 30 November 1998) is misleading in a number of respects. In particular, he is wrong to suggest that the Catholic Church was "disappointed" with the special position it was accorded in the constitution.

John Charles McQuaid, President of Blackrock College (Holy Ghost Fathers) and later the renowned Archbishop of Dublin, was closely consulted by de Valera in the drafting process and helped

write some of the clauses. There can be no doubt that Rev McQuaid was acting for the Catholic Church in this matter.

What Dr Hogan probably means to suggest is that the Irish constitution did not give a formal position of Establishment to the Catholic Church. But official, mainstream, Catholicism understood very well that a measure of religious diversity was required in a constitution which aimed to eventually encompass the northern Protestant people of the island.

The result of the compromise is that Catholic social power in Ireland has been exercised in an informal, unaccountable way. A formal concordat or Establishment would in fact have limited that power – just as Establishment cramped the independence of the Church of England.

At the same time it must be said that public life is freer and less hypocritical than in Britain. There have been, and are, Irish counterparts to Robin Cook (and his "mistress") and to Ron Davies – and they have not been driven from ministerial office, or forced to resign their positions.

Catholicism in Ireland is in many ways approaching Continental norms, while Britain seems stuck in its puritanical (and prurient) non-conformist conscience rut.

ANGELA CLIFFORD
Editor, Church & State
Cork, Ireland

Lib Dem strategy

Sir: In these days of "control freak" leadership, open debate and consensus may not make such good news stories. But I feel I have to correct your report ("Lib Dems demand debate on Labour", 8 December), which gives a rather misleading impression of the Liberal Democrat Federal Executive meeting held on Monday evening.

At the last FE meeting the idea of a ballot of party members on our strategy of co-operation with the Government in a Joint Cabinet Committee was floated, and the Executive, several of whom favoured the idea, decided to revisit the possibility at this month's meeting.

In the meantime, various of the Party's constituent bodies, including the Association of Liberal Democratic Councillors, have met to discuss the issue, and the usual consultation mechanisms of the Party have been followed. The backbench has strongly indicated that the Party wishes to concentrate on the great campaigning opportunities of the 1999 elections. The pressure has

been dissipated, there is very little appetite for a Special Conference and one is not likely to be called. For this reason we passed a motion deciding against a ballot of the membership at this stage.

We are now keen to "get on with business" and have decided to hold a debate on Party strategy at our autumn conference in Harrogate. The leadership has suggested that we signal this intention to the Party at large when it meets in Edinburgh in March.

This motion was passed with only one objection.

Baroness MADDOCK
President of the Liberal
Democrats
London SW1

Political markets

Sir: George Soros and others are quite wrong to blame financial markets for the global economic crisis that erupted in Asia ("Is capitalism heading for breakdown?", 2 December). The root causes of these problems were all political: the financial markets were merely the bearers of the bad news.

The basic problem was and remains heavy government intervention in the banking markets of those countries.

Financial regulation initially forced a lot of money into highly suspect but politically favoured schemes. When the loans went sour, more financial regulation and politically-controlled central banks sent ever-increasing amounts of new, good money after the growing pile of old, bad money.

A political lender of last resort can successfully put off a small, short-term crisis, but only by risking a bigger crisis later. Eventually the crunch will come.

The situation now is that no one wants to lend more money into a system that still refuses to write off its debts, is still sending good money after bad, and is therefore unable to repay new loans.

The politically-created bad loans are now so big even their governments cannot bail them out.

This is why Asian markets and currencies have collapsed. It is not a market failure, it is a political failure; Asia will not recover until its financial markets are deregulated.

M NISBET
Brentwood, Essex

Don't blame Lewis

Sir: Philip Hensher (Comment, 4 December) is right to observe that the Narnia stories contain evidence of C S Lewis's misogyny and racism. He is wrong to conclude that they are therefore bad or harmful. Some of the political and social mores expressed in the books are abominable when viewed from a liberal Nineties perspective, but Lewis can hardly be blamed for living in the time he did.

The importance of the stories lies in the very fact that the author was indeed flawed and imperfect, an intellectually astute man who had unconsciously come to use his academic skills as a defensive compensation for much that was arrested in his emotional development. I believe he subliminally expressed aspects of his own struggle in the Narnia stories, through powerfully symbolising the extremes of good and bad, right and wrong, joy and grief, reward and renunciation in his characters and situations.

Children have responded to these sometimes stark (what Hensher would presumably regard as unimaginative) symbols in much the way they have to other fairy stories which resonate strongly with their own internal emotional processes.

To suggest that Narnia should be dropped down a hole for failing to be imaginative or politically correct is as absurd as suggesting Snow White, Rumpelstiltskin or Mother Goose should meet a similar fate for the same reasons.

CHRIS MILLS
Both

Pinochet and I

Sir: When I arrived in the UK, 24 years ago, I never imagined that one day I would share my exile with Pinochet. After some nightmarish years I managed to rebuild my life, away from the viciousness of Pinochet's henchmen. Today, with my family England is home; now I am so proud of it. The time has come for us, the victims of persecution, to shout with joy and for dictators to fear. This is history in the making.

GAD LEVY
Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire

Sir: Am I the only person who would be pleased if Argentina requested the extradition of Margaret Thatcher?

PETER SKELLERN
Nottingham

Is there really a way of avoiding Bracknell?

AS CHRISTMAS comes ever nearer, like an express train heading towards an unmanned crossing, I sense a feeling of panic in the air, a lack of ideas for presents, which can best be expressed in the question: "Isn't there some new book out which would make the ideal Christmas gift, if not by Michael Palin, at least by someone else?"

Indeed there is, and today I am bringing you the top Christmas book bargains on the market, any one of which will make the perfect present for someone who can read, or indeed, considering that most Christmas book gifts remain untouched, anyone who can't read.

Women Are From Venus, Men Are From Basingstoke by Dr Graybeard, Garfinkel & Schuster, £13.99. Dr Graybeard has two the-

ories. One is that if you write a book purporting to explain the difference between men and women, you will sell millions of copies. Two, that women are interested in arriving but men interested only in how they got there, which is why men waste half their lives in endless conversations about the best way to avoid Bracknell. But is chatting about roads and parking spaces another form of sex? Dr Graybeard does not commit himself.

The Thomas Hardy Book of West-Sex Girl Jokes, edited by Gyles Brandreth, Heritage Ho Ho Press, £13.99. A lovely taste of old England. Sample Thomas Hardy joke: "Hey, did you hear the one about the West-sax girl who was about to get married but found that her fiancé had been transported for life on a



**MILES
KINGTON**
Women are interested
in arriving but men
interested only in how
they got there

The Late Enoch Powell by Simon Hodder, Heffer & Stoughton, £13.99. A book which will come as a con-

siderable shock to anyone who thought Enoch Powell was still alive.

Lafontaine's Fables by Oskar Lafontaine, Europa, £13.99. A welcome reissue for the best fables by the renowned story-teller, Lafontaine, including such classics as "The Big Goat, the Little Goat and Tax Harmonisation", "The Little Boy Who Cried 'Rebate!'", and "The Crow and the Cheese which Broke EU Pasteurisation Regulations". Endless hours of fun.

The Penguin Book of Conversations edited by Paul Theroux, Penguin, £13.99. If anyone thinks unlikely that of us can remember any past conversation in much detail, but Paul Theroux claims the opposite. He points out, for example, that he

ple idea, as fresh as possible, then prepare it and serve it up as simply as possible, sprinkling it with lots of lovely photos, then publish it and sell lots and lots of it.

Interviewing the English by Jeremy Paxman, Acacia Press, £13.99. Jeremy Paxman brings his formidable interviewing techniques to bear in this revealing book. Here is a telling sample:

Paxman: What makes you English?
Man: Well, I don't know, really.
Paxman: Come on, don't shilly shally – I want an answer!

Man: Is it something to do with racial background?
Paxman: No – the answer is, the urge to go on TV quiz shows and make a fool of yourself. No points. More Christmas books soon!

tical markets
large Soros and other
rong to George Soros
for the global financial
crisis erupting in the
world. On 2 December
2001, the US government
and the European Union
are facing a major
challenge in the
form of a new
international
economic order.
The US has
been pushing
for a free
market system
that would
allow it to
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However,
the European
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other countries
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An age-old issue that all of us must confront

WE ARE all getting older, so *The Independent's* Christmas appeal on behalf of old people is not asking for charity towards some tribe of unfortunates who find themselves in our midst, but for a better understanding of our collective self-interest.

We do not wish to add to the portrayal of old people as the powerless victims of neglect, poverty and discrimination – although these are real problems. What naturally follows from that perception is the mere loading of the victims with tea, sympathy and hand-outs – again these may be needed, but pity is not the whole story.

We should start by looking down the other end of the telescope, by beginning with the contribution we can all continue to make to society when we are old, by reconnecting young and old, and by facing the reality of physical decline and death with a fighting spirit. When people have children, the point of grandparents suddenly becomes obvious: it is then that we can see the waste of human potential produced by a society which isolates and demeans people who have passed an arbitrary "use-by" date – a society with, at the same time, a vast unmet need for high-quality child care, for supplementary education for advice, counselling, mentoring and supervision.

No one much likes being called old, which is part of the problem. Our culture of youth-worship has spawned a range of euphemisms, some of which, like "the elderly", are more demeaning than plain English. The Prime Minister called them "senior citizens" in the Commons this week, which is not a bad euphemism, even though it sounds dated on this side of the Atlantic. Tony Blair's language epitomises the problem. Last month he had to crash his rhetorical gearbox into reverse: "When I spoke before the election of wanting to create a Young Country, there were those... who saw this as a wish to turn Britain into a nation where only the young can prosper. It was nothing of the sort. It was a pledge to build a country where all are valued." Of course it was, Prime Minister. To be fair to him, he has also spoken persuasively of the need to rebuild communities on the building-blocks of strong and, by implication, extended families.

But he has not followed fine words with anything like enough action. With his talent for asserting that black is simultaneously black and white, that marriage is both better than and equal to non-marriage, he claimed that the Young Country was a promise "to remove the old barriers which prevent everyone, whatever their age, from playing their full part in our society". In which case, why was Ian McCartney's pledge to outlaw age discrimination dropped from the manifesto? All that is now being offered is a "code of conduct" for employers, and it is not even clear whether employment tribunals will refer to it.

THE INDEPENDENT

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There is certainly a disparity between the Government's efforts directed at the young unemployed and lone parents on the one hand, and old people on the other. It could be bluntly argued that more is at stake with a young person who faces a lifetime on the scrap-heap than with someone who has been retired early, at the age of 50, and may never find another job. But the extent of the disparity is unjustified, especially when old people could be part of the solution to the problems faced by the young.

In particular, the idea of one-to-one contact between government agencies and benefit claimants is one that should be extended to pensioners. Harriet Harman, in her 14-month tenure at Social Security, set up pilot schemes to test the best ways of ensuring that pensioners take up the benefits to which they are entitled. But we already know that one-to-one interviews are the best way to proceed, a method that could also be adapted, like the New Deal for young people, to help old people to make

a valuable contribution to society, as well as simply assessing their needs.

In a week in which it has become clear that the Government will duck radical reform of the ramshackle structure of pensions, we should try to balance that debate by looking at how people can continue in flexible work after the age of 65, rather than simply regarding them as a burden. It should be obvious that one of the solutions to poverty in old age is for people to have jobs available for longer.

Of course, there is a growing burden of care on young people, and even on the "less old". We should not lapse into an optimistic fantasy of fit and happy grannies busily popping up and holding together the young people's show, or even an imaginary world populated by vigorously bad-tempered Victor Meldrews. As physical health improves and longevity lengthens, the problems of senility grow. In our Christmas appeal, we also want to

support work against the physical abuse of old people, which is often associated with the frustrations of looking after the difficult and the disoriented. The dangers of tragic abuse of children's trust in residential institutions is now well known, but we should extend those lessons to make sure that old people in similar circumstances are not isolated and ignored.

And, finally, our appeal will support the hospice movement, which has been the most important step forward in recent years towards greater dignity in death. Hospices are not just for the old, of course, but part of the reason for modern society's unhappy attitude to old people is that it reflects not just our fear of death, but our embarrassment about it. Death may never lose its sting, but hospices provide places which at least acknowledge what is going on. Until younger people are able to look such facts in the eye without blushing, the gulf between old and young will continue to divide us.

Memo to Mr Blair: Europe could turn you into the new John Major

THE GREAT Tony Blair European balancing act moves to Vienna. There he is, displaying an easy rapport with his fellow EU leaders, showing a new "engagement" with Europe. There he is again, baffling for Britain over its rebate. How long can he be a good European and, simultaneously, the Prime Minister who refuses to cave in when "Britain's interests", as defined by a Eurosceptic press, are at stake? The answer lies in the experience of Blair's predecessor.

When John Major took over as prime minister he had no doubt that, in Europe, warm words and greater co-operation were needed to replace the Thatcherite handbag. Such a move was in Britain's self-interest. Indeed so confident was he of his new direction that in his first year as prime minister rarely a speech went by in which he did not make his case. The following is typical:

"It is because we care for lasting principles that I want to place Britain at the heart of Europe. But partnership in Europe will never mean passive acceptance of all that is put to us. No one should fear we will lose our national identity. We will fight for Britain's interests as hard as any government has done before. I want Britain to inspire and shape Europe in future as decisively as we have over the single market. Then we will fight for Europe's interests too: not from the outside, where we would lose, but from the inside where we will win."

Major was attempting to pick up the pieces after the final months of Euro-hysteria under his predecessor by being, as Tony Blair puts it now,

"wholly engaged in Europe because it is in Britain's self-interest to be so".

Indeed, there is no difference at all between the early Major declarations about Europe, and the responses Tony Blair has given in recent Prime Minister's Question Times to questions about tax harmonisation and the rebate.

There are, of course, big differences in the personalities and outlooks of these two. It is impossible to imagine Major making a speech in France in the native tongue of a Europhile audience, to give one example of the way in which Blair has occasionally vowed them in Europe. And Blair "engages" in Europe with most of his back-benchers looking on supportively, while Major made his "heart of Europe" speech in 1991 with the grieving Thatcherites reassembling for battle.

But the comparison between the two Prime Ministers is far from meaningless and contains an important lesson for Blair. For the experience of Major reveals that the balancing act which Blair is now attempting, and which his predecessor briefly attempted, is not sustainable. When the rhetoric of "Britain's self-interest" and being "fully engaged in Europe" is faced by the real substance of decisions and negotiations, it is rendered useless. For the Eurosceptic press regards "self-interest" as defeating those wretched Europeans on every occasion.

I use the term "early Major" because it is the most forgotten period in recent British politics, obliterated from our collective memories by the mire into which his government de-



STEVE
RICHARDS

The early Major days are the most forgotten in recent politics, a heady time with record-breaking poll ratings

scended after the 1992 victory. The earlier period was quite different, the first, almost convincing attempt at building a post-Thatcher style of government. They were heady days, with record-breaking opinion poll ratings for Major himself. Part of the reconstruction was a more positive approach towards Europe, in style and in substance. As Blair has had to rebuild relationships in Europe after the dying years of Tory rule, so Major felt similarly obliged after the shrill "No, No's" of Thatcherite diplomacy.

Immediately Major went about mending fences with Kohl and others. He sounded constructive even about monetary union, arguing that it should be based on open and free markets and depend upon a much greater economic convergence. Certainly he did not attack it with a sledgehammer.

He tried to reposition his party as more pro-Europe. The extract quoted above is not from the famous "heart of Europe" speech he made in Bonn, with an appreciative Kohl by his side. He uttered those words to Conservative activists at a party conference in 1991. For a brief time the Tories under Major and Chris Patten as party chairman, looked as if they could work with Europe.

In reality, behind the firm handshakes exchanged with other leaders, Major had not resolved how he could show to the Eurosceptic press and Tory MPs that being at the heart of Europe was in Britain's interests. But what does a prime minister do when the rest of Europe wants to move fast in a specific direction and he is opposed to the speed, and has big doubts about the destination? In Major's case, domestic politics and his own growing scepticism answered the question for him. He became the wielder of the veto. The noble aspirations were displaced by a beef war.

In using the same terms of debate as early Major, Blair faces similar difficulties. He is being sincere in regarding self-interest and co-operation within Europe as one and the same. The problem in terms of the domestic argument is that self-interest has become so firmly equated with never giving ground. The row over Britain's rebate has little to do about the level of our financial contribution. Blair knows that to give up 10 pence of it would be politically disastrous. Similarly the recent row over tax harmonisation has nothing to do with plans to centralise income tax or cor-

poration tax, as the convoluted Blair/Shröder joint statement made clear. But the British Government has to send out a less subtle message, as well. It is "No" to harmonisation, although in some areas of taxation it would make practical sense, and Britain would be a beneficiary.

At the moment such an argument would be too subtle. Instead only blunt messages are fed to a domestic audience that apparently wants to be a member of the EU, but only on terms that mean Britain always gets its way. Blair made a heartening attempt at Prime Minister's Question Time this week to present a more complex case when he explained that the debate over tax harmonisation within the EU had only just begun, and was already provoking many different views from the varying governments. In my view he got the better of the populist scepticism of William Hague. The logical consequence of the Tory stance is withdrawal from the EU.

Ultimately the argument that Britain's self-interest lies in the heart of Europe can be sustained only by making a politically agonising leap: sometimes, being at the heart of Europe means losing out in order to stay there. There is only one alternative route, which is to decide that Britain's self-interest means withdrawing from the heart of Europe and winning a few Pyrrhic victories for the benefit of domestic audiences in the process. This is the route that Major took. Look what happened to him.

The writer is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In the President's mind – and that's the heart and soul of perjury – he thought and he believed that what he was doing was being evasive but truthful."
Charles F C Ruff, White House Counsel

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It would not be better if things happened to men just as they wish."
Herclitus, Greek philosopher



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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Verdicts on Jack Straw's decision to allow the Pinochet extradition process to continue

and independent country. However, the minister can at any moment take political factors into account and decree the end of the extradition process and the gravest situation that

Chilean juridical sovereignty has had to face this century.
El Mercurio, Chile

THE MINISTER is one of the hardest men of the current

Labour Government. He is silent and effective, soft on the outside and hard inside, although the Pinochet case could still become his Achilles' heel. He firmly believes in socialism as a moral framework and a way of life, and undoubtedly his deepest political convictions are being put to the test.
El Periodico de Catalunya, Spain

PINOCHET CAN no longer expect the British Government to

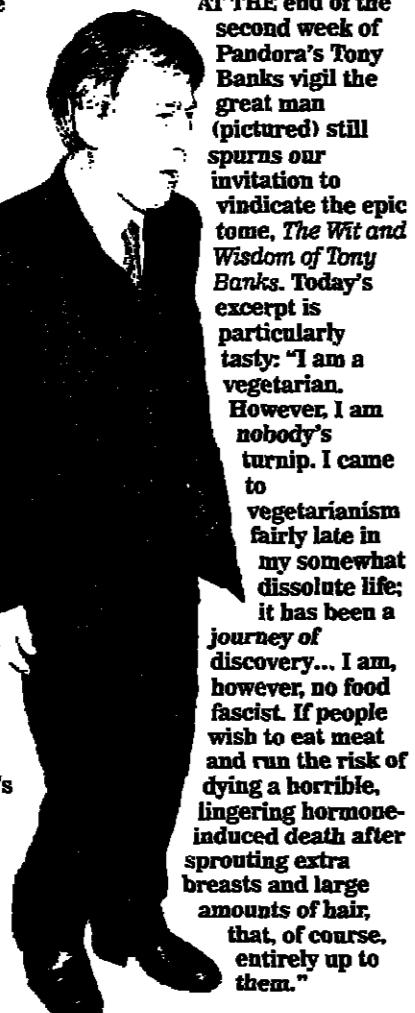
be magnanimous. Straw and his government have shown political courage in taking a decision that means that Pinochet will not be able to leave Britain for a long time. However much the Chilean government and Pinochet's supporters protest, neither Blair nor anyone can do anything for the General. He must be cursing the day when he took the plane for the London clinic and tea with Thatcher.
El Mundo, Spain

PANDORA

THE ENTERPRISE Forum, an organisation designed to get the Conservatives back in touch with business, was launched at Westminster's Atrium restaurant on Wednesday night. Pandora had the privilege of watching history repeat itself. For this was the Tory party attempting to do what Labour had done in opposition: gaining the confidence of the business sector and not, as the Forum's literature put it, relying on "old loyalties" or assuming "any favours for its task". The organisation is fronted by Alastair Burt, former social security minister, and staffed by former Tory party workers, one of whom told Pandora: "We make no secret of our links with the Conservative Party but we are not affiliated to them. The money raised by the subscription fee goes to pay our wages." And those invited to subscribe to the Forum's string of talks given by the opposition front bench? Representatives from retail, pharmaceuticals, management consultancy and - of course - the lobbying industry.

"WE BASICALLY look at which businesses we think are taking the consumer for a ride, which are making excess profits. We ask: can we do it differently than they are doing it? Is there a real reason for us to enter into that business? Will it enhance the Virgin reputation or not? Will we have fun doing it? Will we learn a lot from doing it?" asks Richard Branson, explaining his involvement with Virgin trains to *Salon* magazine this week. "Taking the consumer for a ride" on Virgin trains? It's what passengers have been crying out for Richard.

PANDORA READS with interest a tabloid newspaper's report that Paul Dodd, a known football hooligan would be signing his book (*England's Number One*), at the Kings Cross branch of W.H. Smith today. Despite having thirty criminal convictions a spokesperson for W.H. Smith is quoted defending Dodd's right to perform the signing, saying: "We don't censor what our customers read." That's funny. Wasn't it W.H. Smith who withdrew the Diana issue of *Private Eye* in 1997, dropped a number of specialist magazines in 1996, and banned an issue of *Company*



AT THE end of the second week of Pandora's Tony Banks vigil the great man (pictured) still spurns our invitation to vindicate the epic tome, *The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks*. Today's excerpt is particularly tasty: "I am a vegetarian. However, I am nobody's turnip. I came to vegetarianism fairly late in my somewhat dissolute life; it has been a journey of discovery... I am, however, no food fascist. If people wish to eat meat and run the risk of dying a horrible, lingering hormone-induced death after sprouting extra breasts and large amounts of hair, that, of course, entirely up to them."

BENJAMIN THOU should be living at this hour... I don't think Walter Benjamin altogether had this in mind when he called his famous essay "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction". But works of art produced, as far as one can see, by thought-processes more like mechanical reproduction than the creative imagination, seem to be looming ever larger on the horizon.

A weird succession of movies is on its way; a way of film-making which, giving up even on the elementary invention of the sequel and the remake, prefers instead to produce an artefact of gruesome archaeological perfection.

The American director Gus van Sant has been remaking *Psycho*. You might have thought that, of all films, Hitchcock's masterpiece was the one least in need of any officious tinkering. It is a terribly well-known movie, fondly remembered in the most intricate detail, and faultlessly executed throughout.

Van Sant's explanation, in an interview I read this week to coincide with the film's American release, was simply that the film is not, in fact, very familiar to American au-



PHILIP HENSHER

The new 'Psycho' is like your old granny given a nightmare facelift and stuffed into a miniskirt

diences any longer, and younger audiences are frankly disinclined to sit through black and white movies. *Psycho* is a great film; nobody has ever seen it; so let us remake it.

What van Sant says may well be true of America, though it certainly isn't the case in Europe. But his solution is a deeply peculiar one. He hasn't like most directors of remakes, taken the basic situation and

rescripted and reshaped it, until, like, say, the Hollywood *Cage* or *Folies* remake, it resembles nothing so much as your old granny given a nightmare facelift and stuffed into a miniskirt. No, the van Sant *Psycho* quite simply takes the Hitchcock film, and reproduces it, shot by shot, scene by scene. He includes some small amounts of material that Hitchcock, due to the moral pressures of his time, was unable to use; and that's it. Anne Heche replaces Janet Leigh, the film is in colour; but otherwise it's the most faithful, indeed abject adaptation.

The odd thing is that, where the original, creaky as it is, bogs down, is, cheaply made as it was, retains an unarguable power to shock and appal; this new film, many times more expensive and sophisticated, is just a curiosity. You sit, half-remembering the film you used to love, and watching it get massacred by this year's crop of clean young people. There's no point in picking holes in it, since, as Dr Johnson said, there is no arguing with unresisting imbecility.

But there must be something in the air right now. If the Gus van Sant

Psycho is almost art-movie peculiar in the utter idiocy of its ambition, exhibit B is a much more sinister project. Released in the same week in America, Woody Allen's new movie, *Celebrity*, is exactly the same sort of archaeological enterprise. It is deeply weird and sinister; one of those films he brings out from time to time which try and do the whole European art movie thing - in this case, *La Dolce Vita* - with a loose episodic feel and 250 speaking parts.

But though *Celebrity* is trying like mad to be an exact facsimile of a Fellini movie, what in fact it ends up being is an exact facsimile of a Woody Allen movie. In the cinema in Texas where I saw it last week, the audience on the way out seemed embarrassed by the movie, and it's not surprising; you keep having to remind yourself that this is a real movie by the real director, and not rather a brilliant parody of one of his weaker efforts. You look at the black-and-white Manhattan views, and wait with gritted teeth for the Gershwin clarinet glissando.

It's partly that it goes over an incredible amount of old ground, as someone as prolific as Allen inevitability does. But what elevates it from mere self-repetition into the hideous skin-crawling nightmare you can't wait to end is the performance, in the lead, of our own Kenneth Branagh. It is one of the most bizarre things you will see all year; the lipless Irishman trying with altogether commendable energy to do not just a New York accent, but the most perfect impersonation of Woody Allen himself. As a friend said, "Do you know if you shut your eyes, you would absolutely swear that was Rory Bremner."

What's going wrong with the cinema? I mean, the vogue for sequels is pretty terrible, the craze for adaptations of famous books or comic strips is even worse, and the craze for remaking movies which are perfectly good is an utter scandal.

If these horrible reconstructions set a trend, if directors start revisiting the scenes of their greatest triumphs, then let us admit that we don't like the cinema any more, that this generation doesn't have any talent, and that we'll have to wait for someone to come along who has some ideas, and not just a knack of appropriating someone else's.

A terrifying lack of ambition

Why am I hounded by Britain simply for telling the truth?



DAVID SHAYLER

I'd have broken the Official Secrets Act if I'd told the Home Secretary M15's carpets were grey

into print with various disclosures, it was highly likely the authorities would seek to imprison me. In view of this, I took £20,000 expenses so I could leave Britain and live abroad while the government responded.

The Government wrote to my lawyers earlier this month curiously stating that it would not enter into a dialogue. This position was confirmed by government lawyers last week. I suppose I should have expected such a naive and small-minded reaction from the authorities as this has been the hallmark of their behaviour since I first went on the record in August 1997.

Rather than deal with my legitimate disclosures, the authorities have accused me of being a rebel, a traitor. A traitor is someone who gives secrets to an enemy power, usually in a covert relationship. I have never disclosed the names of agents or operatives and have always deliberately kept my identities not compromised.

First, let me say that I was motivated by conscience to expose wrong-doings in the services. It would have been easy for me to simply accept this malpractice and continue to do the job that I had after leaving MI5.

I realised that, after I had gone

Home Secretary and arguably the least militant Labour politician of his generation, has an MI5 file for being a "communist sympathiser".

I have also disclosed that MI5 paid money to an Islamic extremist group to assassinate Colonel Gaddafi, an attack which went wrong, killing Libyan civilians.

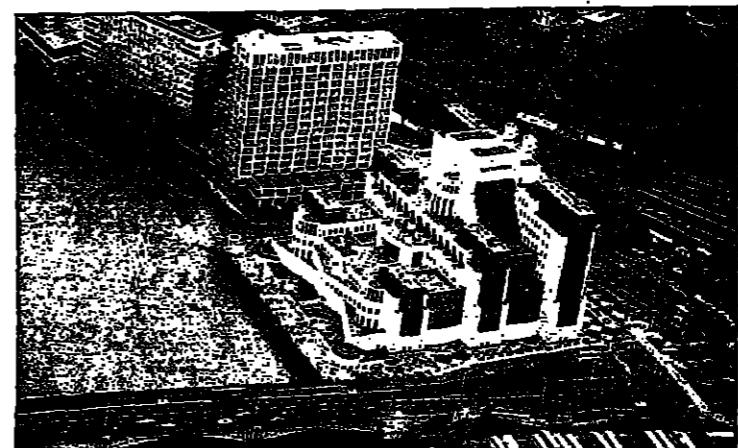
I have also described how an MI5 officer received an intelligence report warning of an attack on the Israeli Embassy but failed to respond to it before the actual attack in July 1994. The report subsequently turned up in another officer's cupboard, in an apparent attempt to cover up the oversight. As a result of my disclosure, it now appears that MI5 failed to disclose their intelligence report to the defence during the trial of those charged, and subsequently convicted, of the bombing.

Yes, I admit I have broken Britain's draconian 1989 Official Secrets Act but I would even have broken the law if I had told the Home Secretary that the carpets in the MI5 building were grey. Of course, if I had made my disclosures before 1989, I would probably not have been prosecuted as I would have cited the public interest defence that existed then.

Many people were anxious when this defence was removed from the Act by the then Conservative government. In fact, Tony Blair, Jack Straw and John Morris, the current Attorney General, all voted against removing the public interest defence as it would deter political whistleblowers. So why have they changed their stance now they are in government?

Second, I'm not a traitor. A traitor is someone who gives secrets to an enemy power, usually in a covert relationship. I have never disclosed the names of agents or operatives and have always deliberately kept my identities not compromised.

Third, every bit of information I have disclosed has had a very strong public interest reason for its disclosure. I have, for example, pointed out that Jack Straw, the current



M15 headquarters in London

Alasdair Macdonald

call witnesses and demand papers, unlike similar bodies in other western democracies.

When I made my disclosures, I thought the Intelligence and Security Committee as part of its role would take my evidence and hold the agencies to account. Despite my efforts the committee has refused to listen to me, let alone objectively assess my evidence.

The UK had recently (and belatedly) begun the process of incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. Although the convention makes provision for the state to curtail freedom of expression to protect national security, it accepts a degree of "proportionality". As a blanket ban on freedom of expression, the Official Secrets Act will have to be reformed.

So I now find myself obliged to live abroad for breaking a law that is to be reformed. Although I have been released from La Sante prison, I am now effectively imprisoned in France. If I leave, I risk the British Government applying for my extradition again from another country.

When I was arrested on 1 August 1998, I was still in the process of negotiating with the Government so that I could return to the UK without being imprisoned. At the time, the Attorney General seemed prepared to agree that it would not be in the public interest to prosecute me (but would not write this down). The report for my extradition was clearly an attempt to silence me as it coincided with my efforts to make the public aware of the MI5-funded plot to assassinate Colonel Gaddafi.

As things stand, I cannot help feeling that I'm being left in political exile because I have told the truth, and in doing so have embarrassed the intelligence services.

If my experience has taught me anything, it is that the obsessive secrecy of the British state allows the intelligence services to exert an unhealthy influence over a democratically elected government. How else can we explain the reaction to my situation of a Labour government elected on a platform of information and commitment to basic human rights?

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A new declaration of human rights

EXACTLY 50 years ago, on 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly voted in favour of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Most of the Articles agreed in 1948 bear the stamp of the horrendous experience of the Second World War, where personal rights were systematically infringed: but they also carry the imprint of the economic adversities leading up to that war, when mass unemployment reduced whole populations to misery, and denied hope to an entire generation.

Thus there arose, in many countries at the same time, powerful movements for guaranteed social security, full employment and minimum economic rights. But, globally, these have failed.

These movements were sufficiently influential to mark the thinking of those who drafted the Universal Declaration. They were not, however, sufficient to secure its implementation. When he was asked what he thought of Western civilisation, Mahatma Gandhi replied: "It would be a good idea".

Human rights, as established in the American Con-



PODIUM

KEN COATES
From a speech by
the Independent
Labour MEP to
the New European
Left Forum in Athens

stitution and in the French Declaration of the Rights of Man, included the right to hold property. The rights which such ownership carry are still subject to continual modification. Planning laws, for instance, have greatly restricted the power to "do as we will with our own". Taxation can in principle erode or even annihilate such rights.

But the fundamental objection of socialists to this "right" remains: the concentration of property deprives non-proprietors of the "right" to hold property. A long history of dispossession marks the formation of all modern societies. Numerous expedients have been devised from time to time with the intention of opening up the question of ownership, and widening property rights. But, globally, these have failed.

It is a depressing fact that unrivalled possibilities of technical progress are, in our world, combined with growing distress and the rejection of increasing masses of people, who try to subsist in poverty and unemployment.

This record gives us little to celebrate on the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, even though this document does us a service in that it reflects the hopes of our parents and allows us to measure the distance by which we fall behind those hopes.

A new declaration would have to insist that the real state of human rights may be understood by examining the extent of poverty and unemployment, as well as the numbers of political prisoners.

The right to life itself is in jeopardy for many millions in the grip of poverty. And their right to a fulfilling social existence scarcely exists for the unemployed and those who are excluded in the miscalculated "advanced" societies.

It ain't

PIED

Making up for lost time



MARY DEJEVSKY

Bill Clinton will emerge from the Monica affair with an even greater sense of purpose

THREE years ago, I first met Bill Clinton at a dinner in New York. He was a tall, thin, slightly nervous young man, looking slightly uncomfortable in his skin. He had just been elected president and was still adjusting to the responsibilities of the office. He was clearly a good man, but he was not yet fully aware of the challenges ahead.

Now, three years later, I have met him again. He is older and thinner, but also more driven than he was at the start of his presidency. He has learned from his mistakes and is determined to make things right. He is a better president now than he was then.

An act of God apart, all that can now prevent Bill Clinton from completing his term is a decision on his part to do the decent thing and resign – which seems as remote a prospect now as it ever was.

For until the temporary setback of the past week, when the leaderless Judiciary Committee decided to go for broke and push the impeachment process as far as it could go, Mr Clinton was clavering his way back. The unaccustomed hesitancy in his voice had gone; the washed-out haggardness of his visage was diminishing. Coming through once again were the steeley determination and sense of mission that had brought him, in four-and-a-half decades, from the little town of Hope in the backwoods of Arkansas, to the White House.

In good times and in bad, Bill Clinton's demeanour tells much – more, perhaps, than is good for a



Bill Clinton will be back – older and thinner, but also more driven than he was at the start of his presidency

politician, still less a world leader.

One reason perhaps why other statesmen find him so engaging and women – with the exception of Paula Jones – find his charm so devastating, is that he still conducts himself so often like a small boy. His response on being caught by the evidence of Monica's blue dress was that of a male child caught doing what he should not have done.

"I could not tell a lie" may have been the guilty admission of George Washington, the ethical standard on which the United States liked to think it was built, but those days are past, if indeed they ever existed. In common with a good many of his predecessors, Bill Clinton could lie and did. He will bluff and bluster to save his skin. But once caught, he looks caught.

This week, as the depth and duration of his shame are being determined, something of that look has returned. But Bill Clinton will be back. He will be older and thinner than he was at the start of the

rumble by the US media in January to the time that he admitted he had been found out (August) and discovered the political capital to be made of contrition (September, October and November). Bill Clinton was never quite his old confident self. Last year's State of the Union message to Congress – just six days after the Monica revelations – was visibly a struggle, and he fluffed his lines.

Thereafter, he took on a haggard, somewhat haunted look. The fast-talking bluster was less evident; the lustre of confidence had faded. Caught off-guard, he could look stooped, even cowed.

This week, as the depth and duration of his shame are being determined, something of that look has returned. But Bill Clinton will be back. He will be older and thinner than he was at the start of the

year, wiser and more reflective. But he will also be even more determined and driven than he was at the start of his presidency.

He has a legacy to bequeath, and that legacy must include something lasting that trumps the scandal, something that links his name for ever with something more than his dalliance with Monica Lewinsky.

There was a glimpse of the post-Monica Bill Clinton this autumn, in the week of the Middle East peace talks at Wye Plantation, when he persisted in arguing and cajoling for longer than most negotiators would have allowed, far longer than a world leader could usually afford.

Afterwards, he offered a hint of his rationale: he saw the hardships and the sleepless nights as a physical and intellectual penance of a kind for his misdeeds, and he saw

his success – however tenuous and short-lived it turned out to be – as approval of a kind, from God.

It is possible to think of his trip to the Middle East this weekend – Jerusalem at Hanukkah, the first address by an American President to the Palestinian assembly – as another test. Far from deterring him, the violence in the region that has erupted in advance of his visit is a hardship sent by God. He is deliberately putting himself in harm's way, challenging God to prove him for the work ahead.

In a country where material things count for so much, it is easy for an outsider to be cynical about the religious aspect of American life and about Americans' church-going, especially the church-going of politicians. But Bill Clinton's Southern fundamentalist roots run deep. He speaks the language of that church. He thinks in its terms,

and – while his prayer breakfast contrition was as staged as any of his apologies – his recruitment of clergy as counsellors and his reference to his affair as "between me, the two people I love most, my wife and daughter, and our God" were not.

Far from reconciling himself to being a lame-duck President, Bill Clinton will emerge from the Monica affair with a greater sense of purpose than before. He will be a man in a hurry to make up for lost time, a man saved by God for great deeds, a man with a mission for his country and the world even more urgent than before. Whether he turns his zeal to a domestic agenda – a return, for instance, to his health programme or to race relations – or to the international arena, Bill Clinton will be back, a man – and a leader – to be reckoned with.

RIGHT OF REPLY

PRUE LEITH



The Vice President of the Royal Society of Arts defends their plans for Trafalgar Square

YOUR LEADING article ("Populus on the plinth") implies that the RSA is somehow ignoring the people's wish by proposing a temporary display of contemporary works on the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square. For 150 years nothing appeared there because no one could agree. Originally the plinth was to have been occupied by an equestrian statue of William IV, but he failed to leave funds to pay for the work. And so the plinth has remained empty, because no proposition has yet managed to achieve general approval.

We consulted widely for three years and the suggestions from the public included ideas for both contemporary and traditional exhibitions; for "heroes" as diverse as Pooh Bear and Nelson Mandela, and for themes such as Peace and Democracy. But "the public" does not speak with one voice. So we tested the various ideas with interested bodies, possible funders and with a feasibility study.

We have been working with advisers from Sculpture at Goodwood, the Tate Gallery, ArtAngel and the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association. To get the debate going about the long-term solution, we intend to hold a temporary exhibition of contemporary sculpture.

Seventeen British artists were invited to submit ideas, out of which three were chosen by the commissioning panel, who, if planning permission is granted, will provide interest, excitement and pleasure to Londoners and tourists in Trafalgar Square.

Other cities are much braver about showing off their best artists – Paris had an exhibition down the Champs-Elysées of about 50 sculptures from Rodin to Lynn Chadwick, and New York has Flanagan's Hares all down Park Avenue. Let's, for once, take a risk, if only a temporary one.

It ain't necessarily so



FRIDAY BOOK

SUITS ME: THE DOUBLE LIFE OF BILLY TIPTON
BY DIANE WOOD MIDDLEBROOK. VIRAGO. £20

IN 1989, the publication of my book on historical cases of women who cross-dressed as men coincided with the death of the American jazz musician Billy Tipton. I was often asked to comment on how Tipton "got away with" duping fellow musicians, his four wives and the boys who knew him as Dad, into believing "she" was a he. I was equally astonished, since I had assumed that gender reassignment had ended a centuries-old phenomenon.

Like the women whose lives I studied, Billy Tipton left no definitive record of his experiences: nor an explanation of his behaviour. Despite this, biographer Diane Middlebrook West has written a wonderfully detailed, lively and deeply sympathetic portrait. She argues that Tipton's identity simply swung between the poles of masculine and feminine. A decade after his death, that is a concept more easily understood – especially in America, where a transgender move-

ment has flourished among those who feel they exist somewhere along the continuum of gender identities. As the clean divide between the sexes becomes blurred, stories such as Tipton's become more understandable.

Billy was born Dorothy in Oklahoma City on 29 December 1914, the eldest child of Reggie and G W Tipton, a young couple "who got married in a fever". Dorothy's introduction to show business came early as she watched her father, a stout man, walk along the wing of an airplane. There were other lessons about performance, too. A photo of

Dorothy at three shows a chubby girl, carefully composed in a lace dress and cap, with ankles neatly crossed.

But neither her budding femininity nor the family's prosperity were to last. In 1927, the fever had run its course and the Tiptons divorced, with Reggie taking custody of the children. During the 1930s Reggie, unable to support Dorothy and her brother Billy, sent them to live with their Aunt Bess in Kansas City.

Despite straitened circumstances, Aunt Bess encouraged Dorothy's ambition to become a professional musician. There is another illuminating photograph of Dorothy, aged 15, ill at ease now in a ruffled dress, sporting a garland on her ham-sized wrist. Her obvious discomfort speaks volumes of her decision to leave the middle-class security of Aunt Bess's home and head back to Oklahoma City where, by 1935, she had become Billy.

Without the luxury of a memoir or letters to explain the leap over the gender divide, Middlebrook falls back on speculation. This is a biographer's prerogative and, in Tipton's case, the author teases out a convincing scenario of a musician driven as much by a desire to escape from poverty as a compulsion to express a masculine identity.

Billy gradually shed his female identity with the help of a girlfriend, Non Earl, who herself caused a sensation in Oklahoma City by wearing trousers. With brilliantined hair and obvious talent, Billy began landing jobs, first at a local club and later in a series of swing bands. As Tipton's cousin Eileen recalled, "she was talented and good-looking and had a great personality and once



the ball started rolling, I don't think there was any turning back for her." But Billy's security was always wafer-thin, and this cheated him of success. At the height of his career in the 1950s, with the release of his second album and offers of lucrative contracts in Las Vegas, he opted to become an agent in Spokane.

Fame would have made him vulnerable to exposure. Even with his four "wives", Billy felt unable to divulge his secret. Middlebrook points out that his marriages, except the last to former stripper Kitty Kelly, all lasted seven years, and may have frayed under the strain. But, astonishingly, with Kitty he had the confidence to raise a family of three adopted sons and one foster son, who knew him only as Dad. Just as Billy had constructed an identity that suited him/her, he built a family and, for several years, settled into suburban bliss.

But the effects of living on the margins of society without a social insurance number, medical benefits or a pension caught up with Billy in old age. His performance had taken over long ago and, as Tipton once told a fledgling musician, "You've got to live the part, you've got to wear it." He spent his life strutting and fretting upon the stage and then paid the ultimate price for his inability to share it – even with those most intimate to him.

JULIE WHEELWRIGHT

Our poems this week come from 'Field Days', edited by Angela King and Sue Clifford for Common Ground. It costs £10 (inclusive) from Common Ground, PO Box 25309, London NW5 1ZA

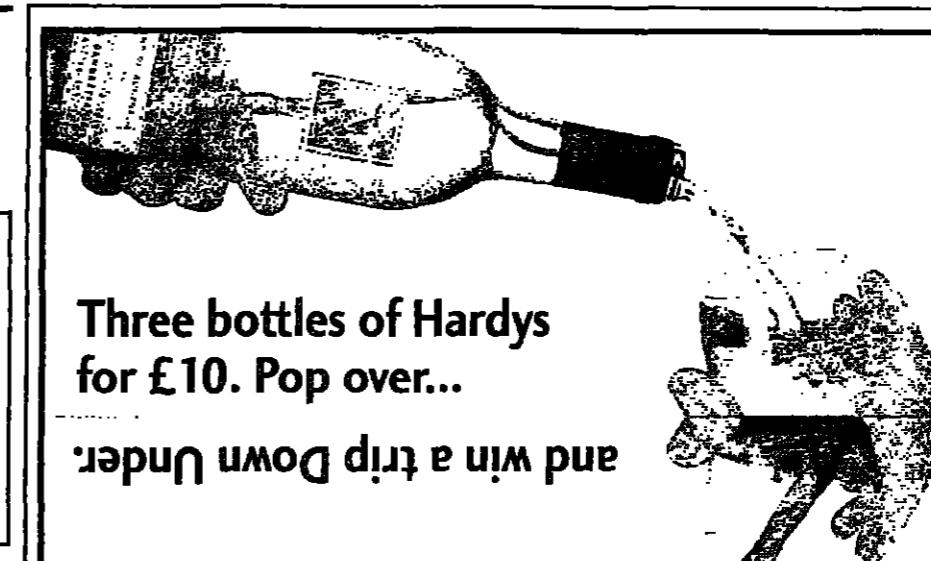
FRIDAY POEM

PIED BEAUTY
BY GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS

Glory be to God for dappled things –
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim:
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?);
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.

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PURCHASES The competition is open to all residents of the UK who are 18 or over, except for employees of BRL Hardys and First Omega and their agents. The price of two return economy air tickets to Australia (to use between 1/2/99 and 30/11/99) plus two weeks accommodation will be awarded to the competitor who has answered the question correctly and who has, in the opinion of the judges, finished the tie breakers in the most apt and original way. In addition, there will be 50 runners-up prizes redeemable against any Hardys wine in Thresher Wine Rack or Bottoms Up, worth £10 each. These will be valid until 31st March 1999. The competition is open to individuals only. No cash alternative will be given. Entries must be submitted on the entry form, which can be obtained from any of the above stores. Entries become the absolute property of the promoters and will not be returned. By entering, competitors agree to be bound by the rules. Closing date: 12/1/99. Winners will be informed in writing by 1/2/99. A list of winners and results will be available on receipt of a SAE from the organisers after that date. The promoter is BRL Hardys, 4 Dorling Road, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7JX.

Send the coupon and till receipt to: Down Under Competition, PO Box 1853, Epsom KT18 7YD

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Archie Moore

ARCHIE MOORE fought as he lived, with method, determination and skill, but at his own pace, as if he had his own time-frame, as if fights were not confined to the then championship distance of 15 rounds and life itself had no specific beginning and end. "I geared my way of living and my boxing style to last," he said.

His philosophy was probably built. He didn't know exactly when he was born, but grumbled for years that people wrote that he was older than he said. When he once insisted, "Take my word for it. I was born on 13 December 1916," he was contradicted by the one person who knew best, his mother Lorena. She said Archie was three years out – it was 1913 – but even she seemed sketchy.

The result was that nobody could really be sure about when he was born, just as nobody knows how many fights he had. Researchers are still scouring old newspapers and finding "extra" fights for him back when nobody bothered too much about keeping records. The latest estimate is 229 between 1935 and 1963.

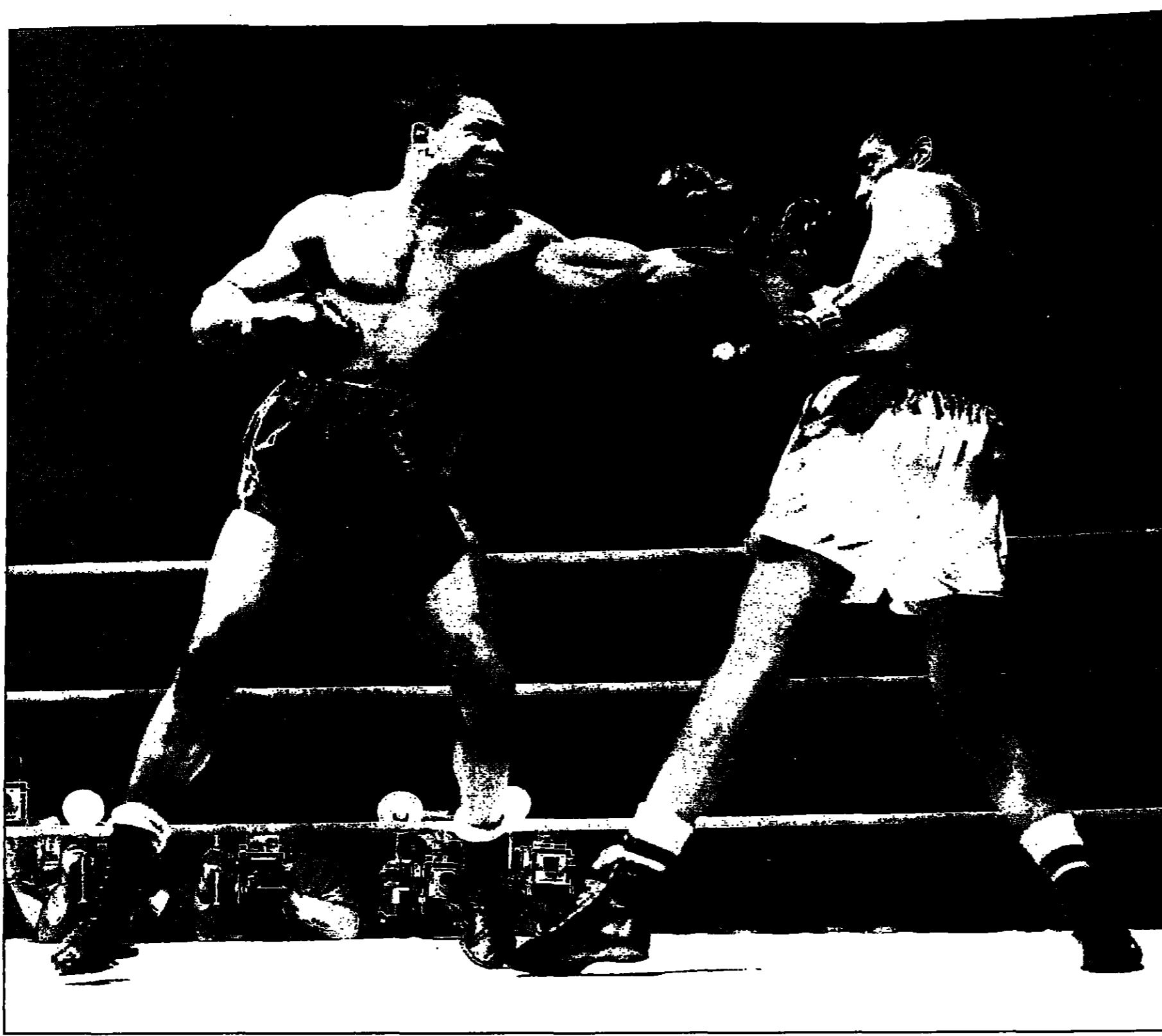
He had an elder sister, Rachel, born when his mother was around 15, but his parents separated when Archie was an infant and he was raised by an uncle and aunt, Cleveland and Willie Pearl Moore, in St Louis. He took on their name. Cleveland Moore, a solid, dependable labouring man, was his inspiration, although he remembered being sent on summer holidays to his grandparents in Mississippi: "In the summer the fish were jumping and the sweet fresh smell of melons on the vine was in the air. We had chickens, corn and white fresh butter. When company came a hog was killed ... there was a swimming hole and long hours spent wading in the creek."

When his uncle died, the teenage Archie took to stealing in order to buy a trumpet, was caught and sentenced to three years in reform school. He was released after 22 months, and put his life in order.

In the 1930s black fighters earned pin money, were exploited, avoided, robbed or decisions, in effect mercilessly suppressed. They knew this, and most went nowhere. Moore stuck at it, even when it must have seemed plain to everyone else that he belonged to the "too good for his own good" club. Years of fighting where he could for whatever pay he could hustle somehow hardened rather than deadened his spirit.

He moved to San Diego in the late 1930s, spent 1940 fighting in Australia in spite of a perforated ulcer, won and lost the California State middleweight title in 1943, and slowly grew into a light-heavyweight. Out of the ring, he ran a fried chicken business.

He fought the great boxers of his weight and time, many of whom were similarly condemned to the wastelands by a corrupt system unduly influenced by gangsters of one description or another. The extent of Mob influence is still not fully understood, but one middleweight champion of the time, Rocky Graziano, was banned by



Moore (left) in the third round of the light-heavyweight championship of 1952, against Joey Maxim. Moore won in the 15th

effectively finished, but he refused to accept the doctor's suggestion that he quit. "I'm happy it ended the way it did," he told reporters. "I wouldn't want to lose sitting in a corner."

It's easy now to forget just how big fights like this were. The paying attendance was 61,574, and the gross receipts including radio and television rights were more than \$2m. Later that night "Ancient Archie" (another nickname, earned in his younger days, was "The Mongoose") with one eye shut behind a huge purple shiner, took himself out on the town and played his beloved string bass with a jazz band. In old age he would still remind anybody who would listen that Kessler robbed him of the heavyweight championship.

He had another chance when Marciano retired in 1956 and they matched him with 21-year-old Floyd Patterson for the vacant title in Chicago. Patterson knocked him out in the fifth.

In spite of increasing bulk, Moore continued to make the light-heavyweight limit (175lb) when he had to, spinning a line that he used a diet given to him by Australian aborigines. At restaurants he would order rare steaks, chew the blood from them and spit the meat back on to his plate. At one time the authorities threatened to take away his title with a typical flourish, he appealed to the United Nations. He was almost knocked out by a Canadian, Yvon Durelle, who floored him three times in the first round in Montreal in 1958, but recovered and won in the 11th.

Eventually he was stripped of his championships in 1962 because he ignored the demands of the governing bodies. By then he was 48. In May 1962 he was good enough to draw with Willie Pastrano, a future champion, although the young Cassius Clay knocked him out in four rounds. Archie Moore's last official fight was in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1963. He won by a knockout.

He trained fighters – famously falling out with Cassius Clay when Clay discovered that in Moore's training camp even he had to carry out household chores – and once acted in a movie, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1960). "I didn't have time to read when I was a kid. Now that I've found books, I'm really living," he said. For a time he trained the world heavyweight champion George Foreman and coached the Nigerian amateur team in the 1976 Olympics.

He remained in good health into sprightly, well loved, old age, but eventually needed a triple heart bypass in 1985 and was frail for some time before his death.

BOB MEE

Archibald Lee Wright (Archie Moore), boxer; born Benoit, Mississippi 13 December 1916; World light-heavyweight boxing champion 1952-62; married five times (four sons, three daughters); died San Diego, California 9 December 1998.

the New York State commission for failing to report a bribe attempt, and another, Jake La Motta, admitted at a senate investigation in 1961 that he had been forced to pay in order to receive a title fight.

Most black fighters were of little interest to those intent on controlling the scene in the 1940s and, even when more opportunities did arise in the 1950s, it is likely that their careers were manipulated according to the gambling whims of shadowy figures in the background.

Moore and world-class black fighters like Charlie Burley, Holman Williams, Lindy Marshall and Jimmy Bivins simply had to wait. "I was fighting for peanuts," Moore said. Even when he had a good gross purse, his manager – there were several along the way – would cream most of it off in expenses. At one time, he said he earned more by hustling with his pool cue than boxing.

His turn finally arrived in 1952 when he was a veteran of, at a conservative estimate, 170 contests. He had enlisted the help of leading writers to campaign on his behalf. The world light-heavyweight champion, Joey Maxim, was an Italian-American whose real name was Giuseppe Antonio Berardinelli. Maxim's manager, Jack "Doc" Kearns, who had managed the great 1920s heavyweight Jack Dempsey, insisted on Maxim's being paid

\$100,000 in return for allowing the fight to go ahead in St Louis. Moore took what was left, which turned out to be \$800. By the time he had paid off his sparing partners and other pre-fight expenses, there was nothing left.

Nevertheless, he won the world

light-heavyweight title at the age of 39. After the decision, he walked over to Maxim, but was brushed aside by Kearns. "Never mind the condones, kid," said the old man.

"We've got all the money." More than that, Kearns had threatened to pull Maxim out of the fight unless Moore cut him in as his co-manager. Moore had signed – and then discovered

Kearns had also negotiated a re-

match clause. As a result, Moore had to beat Maxim twice more. Kearns earned a fortune.

In between defending the light-heavyweight title he boxed as a heavyweight, with a hungry eye on the great world champion, Rocky Marciano. In 1953 Moore beat the dangerous Cuban Nino Valdes, in 1954 stopped another leading big man, Bob Baker, and in 1955 beat Valdes again.

He was ready for the taking, but Harry Kessler, who was known as "The Millionaire Referee", gave Marciano precious extra seconds to recover, dusting him down and generally hesitating before allowing Moore to go back in. The chance was lost. Marciano recovered his senses and eventually knocked Moore out in round nine. It was one round too many. After eight, he was

a chancer. Kearns had also negoti-

ated their fight at Yankee Stadium, New York, in September 1955 was bitterly controversial. In the second round Moore floored Marciano with a perfect right uppercut. The champion's nose was bleeding and his eye was bruised as he hauled himself up at the count of four.

He remained in good health into sprightly, well loved, old age, but eventually needed a triple heart bypass in 1985 and was frail for some time before his death.

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Valentin Berezhkov

VALENTIN BEREZHKOVS was a Russian diplomat who translated for Joseph Stalin and other Soviet officials during crucial Second World War conferences. Once freed from the constraints of Soviet historiography, he earned a good living recounting his experiences of what he considered a great leader.

During his translating career, Berezhkov, to his continuing wonderment, met the entire Soviet leadership – and other world leaders as well, including Adolf Hitler, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee.

He first met Hitler in his office in the chancellery in Berlin while on a mission in November 1940 with the Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov. Despite being complimented by Hitler on his Berlin accent, Berezhkov was uneasy. "His handshake was cold and moist to the touch, which evoked an unpleasant feeling," he recalled, "like touching a reptile." The following month Berezhkov was appointed the first secretary of the Soviet embassy in Berlin, translating for officials in Berlin, translating for officials in their meetings with Nazi leaders.

At three o'clock on the morning of 22 June 1941 – the day Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union – Berezhkov was summoned to a meeting where the German foreign minister Joachim von Ribbentrop read out the declaration of war. "His face was swollen and purple," Berezhkov recalled. "He had obviously been drinking heavily."

Berezhkov and his colleagues immediately set about burning the embassy's secret documents, which they managed just before the SS broke in. They remained trapped in the embassy until an exchange of diplomatic personnel between the enemy states could be arranged.

Back in Moscow he became an assistant to Molotov on American affairs.



What was Stalin like?

Popperfoto / Reuters

He was a personal translator for Stalin during conferences with Roosevelt and Churchill at Tehran in 1943 and Yalta in 1945, and at the Potsdam Conference with Truman and Churchill later the same year.

Berezhkov was born in 1916 in Petrograd, then about to be engulfed in revolution. During the civil war he was taken south to Ukraine and survived the mass famine Stalin created in the 1930s. His father – so many – was arrested, whispering in young Valentin's ear: "Remember, I am guilty of nothing..." before being carted off by the GPU (the secret police). Unlike so many others, he was released as innocent.

Berezhkov graduated in engineering from Kiev Industrial Institute in 1938, before beginning work in the Arsenal plant. He was soon called up for military service and despatched to Vladivostok to serve in the Soviet Pacific Fleet. There he was plucked out to become a translator, thanks to his knowledge of English and German he had been encouraged to learn by his parents.

FELIX CORLEY

Valentin Mikhailovich Berezhkov, diplomat and translator; born Petrograd 2 July 1916; twice married (two sons and one son deceased); died Claremont, California 20 November 1998.

Worms on the carpet

tween the US and the Soviet Union that resolved itself only when the youth renounced his wish to defect and returned to Moscow with his parents. (In 1994 Andrei was shot dead by an associate in Moscow.)

Berezhkov also served in the US as Washington representative of the United States and Canada Institute, the prestigious Soviet research centre on North American affairs. He was widely known on the diplomatic scene and often served as a tour guide for influential Soviet visitors to the US. For a time he was editor-in-chief of USA magazine.

In the 1970s and 1980s he published memoirs of his time as Stalin's translator. In keeping with Soviet orthodoxy, he glossed over details of the Nazi-Soviet pact (allowing the Soviet annexation of the Baltic States, eastern Poland, and Bessarabia). He portrayed the closeness of the Nazi and Soviet regimes as a tactical necessity to foil the plots of the reactionary Western powers.

After the Soviet Union collapsed, Berezhkov retained a fondness for Stalin, but realised he could be far franker about the details Russians and foreigners were dying to hear.

What was Stalin like? He was happy to oblige with anecdotes that showed the good side of his former boss.

In 1991, Berezhkov moved to Claremont in California to teach and lecture on Russian-American affairs. He appeared in many documentaries recounting his impressions of Stalin and published a fuller version of his memoirs, *At Stalin's Side*, in 1994.

ANNIVERSARIES

of baby terrapins all swimming about happily. She took them out, dried them and put them back one by one inside her bra, and went back to the show to look at the plants. They had not long been hatched, she said, and she could not leave them behind all day.

She was born Kathleen Pickard, on Lady Day 1902. Her father, Tom Pickard, was the agent for the Glynde Estate in Sussex and she was born and lived for several years at what was then the home farm. Later the family moved to Harveys, on the other side of the road. Kathleen became interested in plants at a very early age and spent much time looking for wild flowers in Sussex and all over Britain with members of the Wild Flower Society. Her initials could be found scattered thickly through *The Flora of Sussex* (1937), edited by A.H. Wolley-Dod.

Many of her articles on the wild flowers of Sussex appeared in the *Sussex County Magazine*. Her interest in garden plants and particularly in alpines followed. She was a member of the Alpine Garden Society from 1933 and was well-known for her ability to name plants, which stemmed, she always said, from that early grounding in botany. Among her friends were many famous earlier gardeners like Claridge Drury, A.T. Johnson and Will Ingwersen.

Kathleen Pickard was also an LRAM and between the wars went on to run the Brighton School of Music where she had originally studied. Her brother Cuthbert had, after surviving service in the Army during the First World War, died in the influenza epidemic that followed it. She was therefore the only surviving child of a very autocratic father – well known for terrifying the villagers of Glynde – and it seemed as if her life was set, divid-

ed between music, plants and animals and remaining in the family home with her parents.

During the Second World War, however, Canadian troops were billeted in and around Lewes. Kathleen Pickard met Frank Smith, one of the Canadian officers. One of her dogs was reputed to have bitten his ankle and effected an introduction. At the age of 43 she married him, much to the annoyance of her father, who commented, "If I had known you wanted to get married I would have fixed you up before."

In her unpublished book on the garden at Harveys, Frank comes across as a much more useful husband than Margery Fish's husband Walter, being always willing to provide useful muscle for any of Kathleen's garden schemes. They remained happily married until Frank's death over 25 years ago.

Later, when Kathleen Pickard was already confined to one room and all her reptiles had either died or been found other homes, her dogs and a pair of robins remained with her. She would open a little tin box and scatter a handful of meal worms over the carpet. The robins would fly into the kitchen, through the hall and round the corner into her room and peck them up. Unfortunately they usually left a few behind to writhe on the carpet, much to the dismay of her carers.

She grew more eccentric and did not mellow with the years. Those of us who loved her continued to do so and she was always a lively topic of conversation among her friends.

BARBARA ABBS

Kathleen Pickard, gardener and writer; born Glynde, Sussex 25 March 1902; married 1945 Frank Smith (deceased); died Brighton, East Sussex 23 November 1998.



Worms on the carpet

ANNIVERSARIES

Long live the Queen! 1998
Crown Prince Charles and
Princess Diana
1998
The Duke of York attends
the launch of Trent Sotheby's
Royal Engagements

Peg Leg Bates

CLAYTON "PEG LEG" BATES was a one-legged tap dancer who became an unlikely but highly popular star of vaudeville shows and night-clubs, stage musicals, and film and television productions in a career that stretched from the 1920s to the late 1980s. He mastered an extraordinary variety of styles and flourishes, reinventing everything for a leg whose half-rubber, half-leather tip gave his tapping a distinctive sound.

At the height of his career, in the 1930s, Bates topped all other two-legged tap dancers. He danced for King George V and Queen Mary in a Royal Command Performance; he danced with the bands of Jimmy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Count Basie, Erskine Hawkins, Louis Armstrong and Billy Eckstine; and he gained a reputation as an irrepressible performer acclaimed as much by his fellow dancers as by his audiences. "Well, I'm into rhythm and I'm into novelty," he once said. "I'm into doing things that it looks almost impossible to do."

Born in Fountain Hill, South Carolina, in 1906, Bates started tap-dancing for pennies at the age of five, but his venture seemed doomed when, seven years later, he lost his leg in an accident at the cotton gin mill where he worked.

"After losing the leg, for some unknown reason, I still wanted to dance," he told Rusty E. Frank for her 1990 book *Tap!* "At first, I was walking around on crutches, and I started making musical rhythm with them." When an uncle fashioned him a wooden leg he began dancing again. "See, I did not realise the importance of losing a leg," he recalled. "I thought it was just like stubbing my toe and knocking off a toenail that was going to grow back."

Within three years of his accident, Bates had begun to enter amateur shows, and often won first prize. During segregation, he performed in minstrel shows and carnivals, and later joined a circuit that took black performers to black theatres across the United States. At one of the stops, the Lafayette Theatre in Harlem, Bates was spotted by Lew Leslie, the producer of the "Blackbirds" musical theatre revues.

Leslie signed him to perform on Broadway in *Blackbirds* of 1928 and Bates went on to travel to Paris with the revue in 1929. After the show closed, he performed in the vaudeville circuit, appearing in top New York theatres like the Paramount, the Roxy and the Capitol, and Harlem clubs like the Cotton Club and Club Zanzibar.

In 1938, Bates played the Tivoli circuit in Australia, the only black performer to do so. Around the same time, he met Ed Sullivan, then a newspaper columnist, and danced as the opening act for the touring *Ed Sullivan Revue*. When Sullivan went on to become the most important television presenter of the 1950s and 1960s, he did not forget Bates. He was invited to perform on *The*



Bates kept 13 spare legs in his dressing-room, one to match each of his suits

Ed Sullivan Show 21 times, more than any other tap dancer.

In the 1960s, Bates opened a resort, the Peg Leg Bates Country Club, in the Catskills, New York. The resort catered to a black clientele, a novelty in an area that was primarily for white, Jewish holidaymakers. "At first the natives were resentful," Bates said in a 1969 article in *The New York Times*. "But now everything is kosher, beautiful." Following the death of his wife, Alice, in 1987, he leased the club out.

Bates never forgot those similarly af-

flicted by missing limbs and throughout the Second World War performed frequently in army and navy hospitals. He would imitate a dive bomber, leaping high into the air and coming down on his wooden leg, and then tell the applauding soldiers and sailors that with that kind of encouragement he would be happy to break his other leg. After all, he would say, he had more legs in his dressing-room. In fact he had 13, one to match each of his suits.

After his retirement from the stage in 1989, Bates continued to perform for

the handicapped, as well as children and the elderly. Indeed, he danced in Fountain Inn the day before his death, at an event staged to raise money for a life-size sculpture of Bates to be erected in the town's square and to award him the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest honour.

EDWARD HELMORKE

Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates, tap dancer: born Fountain Inn, South Carolina 11 October 1906; married (one daughter); died Fountain Inn 6 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHDAYS

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, former Chief of Naval Staff, 79; Miss Anna Carteret, actress, 56; Lord Eliot of Morpeth, former MP and government minister, 78; Sir Robert Fellowes, Private Secretary to the Queen, 57; Mr Jermaine Jackson, rock singer, 44; Dr Betty Kershaw, President, Royal College of Nursing, 53; Sir Andrew Lansley MP, 42; Miss Brenda Lee, rock singer, 54; Mr Cliff Michelmore, television producer and broadcaster, 79; Sir Wilfrid Newton, former chairman, London Regional Transport, 70; Mr David Plowright, deputy chairman of Channel Four, 68; Mr Carlo Ponti, film director and producer, 85; Mr Patrick Reynolds, designer and artist in stained glass, 73; Mr Alexander Solzhenitsyn, writer, 80; Miss Sarah Spencer, former General Secretary, National Council on Civil Liberties, 46; Miss Sheila Walker, former Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides, 81; Mr Phil Woolas MP, 39.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Pope Leo X, 1475; Carl Friedrich Zeiter, conductor and composer, 1758; Sir David Brewster, physicist, and inventor of the kaleidoscope, 1781; Louis-Hector Berlioz, composer,

1803; Louis-Charles Alfred de Musset, playwright and poet, 1810; Heinrich Hermann Robert Koch, bacteriologist, 1843; Fiorello Henry La Guardia, mayor of New York City, 1882; Victor McLaglen, actor, 1883; Gilbert Roland (Luis Antonio Damaso de Alonso), actor, 1905.

Deaths: Llewelyn ab Gruffydd, last native Prince of Wales, killed in battle 1282; Michael VIII Palaeologus, Byzantine emperor, 1282; Louis de Bourbon, Prince of Condé, soldier, 1636; Sir Roger l'Estrange, journalist and translator of *Aesop's Fables*, 1704; Charles XII, King of Sweden, killed 1718; Edmund Cirl, bookseller and scurrilous pamphleteer, 1747; Colley Cibber, playwright and actor, 1757; Jean-François Casimir Delavigne, playwright and poet, 1843; Richard Doyle, artist, 1883; John Loughborough Pearson, architect, 1897; Matthias Hohner, musical instrument maker, 1902; Menelek II, Emperor of Abyssinia (Ethiopia), 1913; Emile Albertine Olive Schreiner, novelist, 1926; Emile-Charles Marie Wauters, painter, 1933; John William Mackall, scholar, 1945; Sir Douglas James Jardine, soldier and diplomat, 1946; Ebert Roscoe (Ed) Murrow, journalist and broadcaster, 1965.

On this day: James II fled from England, 1688; Indiana became the 19th of the United

States, 1816; the first motor show opened in the Champs-Elysées, Paris, 1894.

The British, led by Lord Methuen, were repulsed by the Boers under Piet Cronje at the Battle of Magersfontein, Orange Free State, 1899; public buildings were burnt in Dublin, the damage being estimated at £3m, 1920; the Statute of Westminster came into effect, 1931; King George VI ascended to the throne, 1936; the Fascist Grand Council in Rome decided to withdraw Italy from membership of the League of Nations, 1937; Germany and Italy declared war on the US, and the US Congress adopted a resolution recognising the state of war, 1941; the new Waterloo Bridge was opened, 1945; the UN refused to admit Spain to the organisation, and recommended that member countries should break diplomatic relations with that country, 1946; the prototype of Concorde was shown for the first time at Toulouse, 1968.

Today is the Feast Day of St Barbara, St Damasus I, Pope, St Daniel the Stylist and Saints Fusarius, Victorius and Gentianus.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Celebrations (II): Pieter Bruegel, The Adoration of the Kings", 1pm. Victoria and Albert

London W1; and, as President, Animal Health Trust, attends a luncheon at Frogmore House, Windsor Great Park, Windsor, Berkshire.

Museum: Nancy Osborne, "Madeleine Vionnet and Elsa Schiaparelli: cut and construction", 2pm.

Tate Gallery: Frances Hughes and Marston Bloom, "Time Was": John Singer Sargent and Graham Robertson", 1pm. British Museum: Joyce Filer, "Wildlife in Ancient Egypt", 11.30am. Gresham College: Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Joanna MacGregor and Professor Stephen Pratt, "Jonathan Harvey's Le Tombeau de Messiaen", 1pm. Leicester University: Mr Michael Attaliades, "Cyprus and Accession to the European Union", 4pm.

LUNCHEONS

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce

Dr Michael Ignatieff was the guest of honour and speaker at luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the Four Seasons Hotel, London W1. Mr Colin Parsons, President of the Chamber, presided.

RECEPTIONS

British Safety Council Sir Neville Purvis, Director General of the British Safety Council, hosted a reception yesterday at the Watermen's Hall, London EC3, for the

Council's International Diploma in Safety Management and Five Star Health and Safety Management System Audit awards.

DINNERS

Australia and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce

The Australia and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce UK Charity Christmas Dinner was held yesterday evening at Australia House, London WC2. The Princess Royal, Patron of the Cranfield Trust, was the guest of honour and was accompanied by Commodore Timothy Laurence. Among those present were:

Mr Graham Swanson, Chairman of the Chamber; Mr Philip Flood, High Commissioner of Australia; Mr Chris Seed, Deputy High Commissioner of New Zealand; Sir Peter Macpherson, President of the Chamber; Mr John Wragg, Trade Commissioner of New Zealand.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.36pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-2262. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0171-349 4771. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1624.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

(Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, etc.) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

AVIATION NOTES

PAUL WILKINSON

Another Lockerbie could happen today

AS THE 10th anniversary of the bombing of PanAm 103 over Lockerbie approaches, media attention has been concentrated on the prospect of the two Libyan suspects indicted for their alleged role in the bombing being brought to trial in Holland.

But we should not lose sight of another dimension of Lockerbie, an aspect that remains of central importance to all airline passengers, the civil aviation industry, governments, and the international community as a whole.

Bearing in mind that the Lockerbie atrocity could have been prevented if the aviation security measures theoretically in place at the time had been properly implemented, could another Lockerbie happen today?

Although the annual totals of terrorist incidents involving citizens of more than one country have declined since the early 1990s, there has been a worrying trend towards more lethal and indiscriminate attacks, as exemplified by the recent bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, the suicide bombings in Israel, the massacre of foreign tourists at Luxor, and the carnage of the Omagh bombing.

There have been other civilian jets destroyed by mid-air sabotage bombs since Lockerbie, for example the bombing of a UTA airliner over the Niger desert and the destruction of a Panamanian commuter plane, with the

loss of all on board. There have been mid-air bombings where the pilot succeeded in making an emergency landing, but in which passengers were killed and injured. There have also been at least half a dozen cases where bombs have mercifully been discovered onboard, or during boarding or loading.

Due to weak links in the International Aviation Security System, another Lockerbie could happen today. Despite security improvements in countries such as Britain and Germany, there are still major gaps which terrorists can exploit.

One of the lessons the civil aviation industry and governments should have learnt from the Lockerbie tragedy is never to allow terrorists' tactics and weaponry to outstrip the capacity of our aviation security measures and equipment. At the time of the Lockerbie bombing, aviation security was still mainly configured to deal with combatting the hijacker. It is a depressing fact that many airports around the world, especially in Africa and the CIS countries, do not yet deploy adequate expertise, procedures, and equipment able to reliably detect the type of plastic explosive hidden in a radio-cassette recorder used to destroy PanAm 103.

British aviation security comes out very well in comparison with other major aviation countries. It took about five years after Lockerbie to

Paul Wilkinson and Brian Jenkins are the editors of *'Aviation Terrorism and Security'* (Frank Cass, £32.50/£17.50)

Non-disclosure caused no prejudice

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

11 DECEMBER 1998

Parker v The Law Society

Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Tuckey) 4 December 1998

tionally disclosed a bench memorandum for the following reasons. First, disclosure would be inconsistent with the relationship between judicial assistants and members of the court, and would inhibit judicial assistants from expressing their opinions.

Secondly, it would result in unnecessary argument before the court as to whether the memorandum was accurate, or the opinion expressed was correct, when such memoranda were only used by the members of the court as an aid to their preparations; they regularly took a different view from that of the judicial assistants of the facts or as to the outcome of the court.

On the hearing of the appeal the appellant had added to the grounds of appeal on which leave had been granted a further ground, which alleged that he had been prejudiced by the non-disclosure of the bench memorandum used at the hearing of his application for leave to appeal.

Stephen Hockman QC and Mark Beard the Bar Pro Bono Unit for the appellant; Timothy Dutton QC (the Law Society) for the respondent.

Lord Woolf MR said that there was no danger that the present practice by the Court of Appeal, Civil Division, of not disclosing bench memoranda prepared for its use would prejudice an appellant or a would-be appellant.

The court had never inten-

tween the judicial assistant and members of the court, and to provide only written communications could be misleading.

Whilst it was the practice in the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division to disclose case summaries, there were distinctions between the position on an application for leave to appeal in a criminal case and in a civil case, and between the position of lawyers employed on the staff of the criminal division of the court, who prepared the summaries, and that of judicial assistants to the members of the civil division of the court.

In the present case it was not without significance that while the appellant complained about the memorandum which had been prepared for his application for leave to appeal, leave to appeal had been given. The only prejudice which he suggested that he had sustained was that he had only been given leave to appeal on three specific points, whereas, but for the bench memorandum, he might have been given leave on wider grounds.

On the hearing of the appeal the court had in fact considered all the material put before it, and the only arguments which had any prospect of success were those which had been identified by the court granting leave to appeal.

With regard to those grounds, there was substance in the contention that there had been no evidence before the tribunal to justify the finding that the appellant had been in breach of an undertaking, and he was, accordingly, entitled to have that finding quashed.

KATE O'HANOLAN Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE colliflour, n.

their putting the menu into proper shape, from redundant apostrophes to surreal spelling. Such wayward creations

are increasing. Only the other day, at Othello, a fashionable Italian restaurant in Hove, I spotted the useful coining of "vergin" olive oil. One might say, "I'm still pure - but virgin." My favourite remains the Indian grocer in Battersea who offered colliflour - which calls for a Thurber drawing of a shaking dog in a bakery.

The noble art of not getting thumped

WALKING UP the metal stairs that lead to Croydon Amateur Boxing Club, I remembered the vital public service once provided by places like this, as the main source of information for Regan and Carter from *The Sweeney*. The trainer, towel round neck would say: "All I know, Jack, is Billy Nodsworth holds a grudge against Nobby Arkwright - jab, Terry, JAB! - who he thinks grassed him up over that diamonds blag that landed him in Wandsworth - use yer left, Terry - so Billy's planning a scenario which can only end up in a shoot-out in a deserted industrial warehouse - stop crying, Terry."

It's been hard for this traditional working-class institution to survive the Nineties. Perhaps because boxing clubs can't be reinvented in a post-modern sense, like pie-and-mash shops and *Are You Being Served*. When a right hook lands on your nose it hurts, even if it's done with irony.

But this club, above a pub in Thornton Heath, is full of enthusiasm and not just for thumping people. John Chambers, who helps to run it, bursts with pride as he

shows you round the room, which he rebuilt with a team of volunteers. "Look at these showers," he says with a contagious beam of delight. "Solid. Work perfectly they do."

Putting the emphasis on plumbing could be the way to make boxing more endearing to the public. Imagine if every time Frank Bruno had taken a hiding, he'd said "Tonight Britain can feel proud. Because I might have had my face punched in, but when I get home I can wash the blood off in the most dependable shower in the world."

Watching John and his partner, Ray, put their lads through two hours of training, you realise how misguided is the image of amateur boxing as a haven for Cockney villains with a market-stall and a broken nose. The emphasis is hardly on fighting at all, and almost entirely on fitness. They talk to the boxers as mates, with great affection and not a hint of PE teacher aggression or condescension. Which is not to say it isn't gruelling.

It starts with 10 minutes of skipping. Then shadow-boxing, in which the boxers, in full regalia, dance round the ring fighting an imaginary opponent. It must be tempting, during this exercise, to relax a little as you decide that today's imaginary opponent is a four foot squirt like Ashley from *Coronation Street*. Then there's a session on the punch-bags, followed by an endless rounds of jumps, press-ups, and sit-ups. Watching this activity, you realise how ridiculous is the booming hobby of pretending you can get fit with no effort. These machines, advertised by smiling models who say "Just five minutes a day of gently pushing this isometrically designed sheet of tin-foil backwards and forwards is all I need for a perfect figure," are rubbish. The truth is that fitness hurts.

So, the club counts among its members a karate champion and a competitor in the European swimming finals, and has helped train two professional footballers. Whereas it's unlikely that the winner of the European 200 metres breaststroke final will have done their training on a bendy thing called a "muscle-building compendium" they bought off the Shopping Channel.

In between the exercises, Ray, a

64-year-old Jamaican who looks 50, teaches the technique of dodging punches. Holding pads which the boxers aim at, he ducks and bobs like an actor in a rap video. Occasionally, with alarming ease, he'll pat the boxer on the stomach or chin, as a way of informing him he's dropped his guard. It's all done with so much more panache than I remember; when friends of my Dad's would square up to me, growing "Let's see your guard son," ap-

parently unaware that I was six.

Even the technical side of amateur boxing seems to concentrate on avoiding being hit, rather than on wallowing your opponent. Partly this is as a response to the attacks made on the sport, which has led to stricter regulations. No one can fight wearing contact lenses; gumshields must be white so that the referee can detect the faintest trace of blood; and Shola, a boxing travel consultant, discovered yet another rule.

"It was my first competitive fight, at the Café Royal. The bell was just about to go for the start when the referee told me I couldn't fight. He said I had too much stubble." It seemed that this could do some damage if it rubbed against the opponent's chin. As if a bloke who was prepared for a right hook in the eyeball was likely to think "Oo that's not fair, it's scratchy."

At this point John intervened, and the referee agreed that Shola could fight, as long as he had a shave inside one minute. So he dived into the changing room, rapidly slid a razor across his face (which was probably far more dangerous than any potential stubble-related violence), and returned

to the ring and won on points.

The pacifist trend in modern boxing was demonstrated towards the end of the training session, when Shola fought a three-round bout with Richard. He took a punch in the stomach which clearly hurt, at which point the fight stopped, and Richard helped him saying how sorry he was. Therein lies the dilemma of amateur boxing.

Most sports can respond to accusations of danger by tightening up rules against violent conduct, and increasing the penalties for those who commit it. But what do you do when the sport is violent conduct? You could bring in a rule that after each punch, the opponents have to exchange gifts and make each other a pot of tea. But you can't escape the crucial role played in boxing by punching. So councils have been reticent about funding the clubs, and many have folded up.

Boxing suffers even more than other sports from the confusion about what motivates people to participate. At professional level, it can revolve around nationalism, greed and treachery, as proved by its

shady managers, squillion-dollar deals, mis-matches and fatalities.

But at local level, most participants wish only to be fitter and improve their performance. John and Ray dedicate several nights a week to their hobby of training people, with no reward other than their pupils' satisfaction and progress.

The pernicious side of amateur boxing comes not from the trainers, or from the boxers, who all seemed humble, amiable and far from violent. It comes from the wealthy ghouls, armed with bow-ties and cigars, who parade their status in ringside seats at venues like the Café Royal, to watch working-class lads thump each other.

As for the boxers, John says: "After these lads have been through a session here, they're too knackered to get in a fight in a pub." And you certainly couldn't find anything in the boxing club to encourage a street brawler. When have you ever heard of a fight outside a night-club starting: "Right, you slag, you're dead. Unless I can't find my gunshield. Or you're wearing contact lenses. Now, has anyone got a razor and some shaving foam?"

Noddy goes to Hollywood

In just eight weeks he's topped the American television ratings, even beating Sesame Street. How did such a frightfully British export became the coolest dude in Toytown, USA? By David Usborne

The rehabilitation of Noddy, that winsome little fellow with the annoying bell on his hat, is complete. No longer need we hide our copies of *Well Done*. Noddy and his other assorted adventures authored by our very own, and briefly discredited, Enid Blyton. Noddy has mended his ways, he is polite to one and all, the Golliwogs – and all racist innuendo – have been ousted from Toyland, and we are all free to celebrate him.

We know this because even the land that invented political correctness, the United States, is falling in love with him. Goodness, when the children in the pediatric ward of the St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan got a Christmas visit from special guests just this Tuesday, who was in the delegation? Well, Santa Claus, of course, but also some unfortunate person dressed as Noddy, all rosy-cheeked and brimming with happy anecdotes about life with his pals Big Ears and Officer Plod.

Officer Plod? Well, yes. Making Plod an Officer, rather than a PC, is one of the many little revisions visited upon the Noddy stories to make them work for an American televi-

sion audience. Noddy's famous yellow car has a trunk over here, not a boot, and Noddy, wait for it, has an American accent. Where Enid had him declaring "I say", now he has adopted "Gee Whiz!" Plod, you may be relieved to hear, has been allowed to keep both his English intonations and his bobby's hat.

Since September, Noddy has become a daily fixture in the firmament of American children's television. Some 2.6m have been spent by BBC Worldwide and the Enid Blyton Company. It's a subsidiary of a company called Chorion, to create a series of 40 episodes specially tailored for the young American viewer. And this week, we hear some astonishing news: Noddy is a ratings phenomenon.

Yes, if the boasting of the programme's makers is to be believed, Noddy is actually overtaking that mainstay of American kiddie TV, *Sesame Street*. According to the newest figures, Noddy now reaches 2.5 million US households, compared with 2.49 million for the venerable *Sesame Street*. Both programmes are offered by the Public Broadcast System, PBS.

PBS was unable, by the way, to confirm these figures, saying their own audience research does not

extend beyond the first week of October. But never mind that.

"After only eight weeks, Noddy's ratings are exceeding those of long-established shows such as *Sesame Street*," gushed producer Rick Siggelov, who also created *Shining Time Station*, a version of *Thomas the Tank Engine*, for US audiences (a one-time favourite of my own offspring). "Noddy has got off to a much stronger start in America than *Thomas the Tank Engine* did when it was first aired."

This of course, should give us Britons moment for considerable pride. Can it be that we are, at last, turning back the tide of cultural influence on the TV-tube that for too long has flowed relentlessly East-to-West across the dividing line? Look at the evidence of 1998. This was the year, after all, when *Teletubbies*, another pearl of British creativity, staged their invasion of the New World. So step aside Big Bird. This land belongs now to Laa Laa, Dipsy, Tinky Winky and Po, now being joined by Noddy, Big Ears, Plod, Martha Monkey, Pink Cat and Dinah Doll. Even Sarah Ferguson hardly gets noticed any more.

Among the children's shows that Noddy still trails in the US is *Teletubbies* itself, a show that is so

novel in its psychedelic weirdness that it has a strong cult following even among adults. (This correspondent has seen grown men clutching stuffed Laa Laa toys on the streets of Greenwich Village.) The American *Noddy*, by contrast, offers nothing that is remotely modern or daring.

The half-hour episodes include about 10 minutes of Noddy animation, all set, in good Blyton tradition, in a pre-War England time warp. The remainder of the show is dedicated to saccharine exchanges between a cast of cute children and a grandfather figure in a toy shop called "Notions, Oddities, Doodads & Delights of Yesteryear" (note the initials). A guest of dubious star-status occasionally drops by, just as in *Sesame Street*. In one episode, Carol Kane does a tiresome rendition of the Tooth Fairy.

And of course, there is nary a trace of the sexist and racist stereotyping that surfaced in the original Blyton books that, in the 1970s, were banned from British public libraries. There are African-Americans among the children in the shop and even in the cast of puppets

playing with Noddy. This Noddy is no afront to American political correctness, because he has been transformed into high-PC himself.

Next will come the licensing bonanza. The Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Company, which has already turned *Teletubbies* into a multi-million dollar franchise, has been

appointed as agent for *Noddy* in North America, and is lining up deals for all manner of *Noddy* merchandise. By the new year, we are told, the shops will be piled high with Mr Wobbly and little yellow cars (with trunks). Book deals have also

been signed with HarperCollins and Dorling Kindersley.

So, as the book cover says, "Well Done, Noddy". He may want to seek advice from another British favourite whose fame over here has made him into an honorary American, Winnie the Pooh.

CLASSIFIED

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SWANLEY BAR PLANT LIMITED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in Section 10 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the above-named Company will be held at Mountbatten House, 100 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 4BD until 15th December 1998 at 11.30am for the purpose mentioned in Section 9(1) of the same Act. Creditors are invited to vote at the Meeting and lodge their proofs, together with a full statement of account, at the office of the liquidator, Clarence House, 2nd Floor, Overgate Street, London SW1V 1EP not later than 11.30am on 14th December 1998. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required to file his statement of account at the office of the liquidator, Clarence House, 2nd Floor, Overgate Street, London SW1V 1EP before the meeting. Statements purporting to be proofs of debts due at the date of the meeting will not be accepted. Creditors are invited to vote at the Meeting and lodge their proofs, together with a full statement of account, at the office of the liquidator, Clarence House, 2nd Floor, Overgate Street, London SW1V 1EP not later than 11.30am on 14th December 1998. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required to file his statement of account at the office of the liquidator, Clarence House, 2nd Floor, Overgate Street, London SW1V 1EP before the meeting. Statements purporting to be proofs of debts due at the date of the meeting will not be accepted.

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All our tomorrows

Continued from page 1

she and my father had bought. Such is the culture of Irish society, that she survived this reckless experiment.

The neighbours ran errands, brought her meals, kept her informed. The local nuns brought Victoria sponge cakes and enquired about her wayward son in London. Friends, nephews and nieces, local priests and handymen all came a-calling, chatted to her cut the grass, made cups of tea and kept her stocked with gossip.

Since she died, the whole subject of ageing and "ending up", far from being a ghastly, depressing thought, has started to fascinate me. Now at 45, I'm aware of settling into an existential plateau, accepting that this income, this diet, this regimen of work and sleep and parties and reading and holidays and sex and Sunday lunch will spin through my days like a carousel with occasional minor variations. Everything I do, it seems, will become institutionalised, like pulling the Christmas tree lights out of the attic when you won't pack up, shortly after your ability to taste and smell.

Old age is starting to land on more and more British men and women. The constituency of "older people" in this country is growing all the time. The figures are startling. There are 11 million pensioners in the UK at present; the figure will be 12 million by 2010. Falling birth rates and better health care mean that the classic pyramidal structure of abundant young people (at the base) and few oldsters (at the apex) is being turned on its head. The old will go on being old for longer. Half the population of over-75s have a long-term

chances are you'll have become Ronald Reagan 10 years later. That you'll sit, bemused in a yellow-curtained day-room and a low income bracket, unchanging like a tree or the Queen Mother, while age and Time perform their final nasty tricks on you, making her stockpile of remedies.

More positive impulses tell you that all your friends will go on, like you, to 85, exchanging symptoms of minor ailments, and recommending hot toddies and colds and holidays in Bali to each other. That you will always live in your own house, no matter what, with people calling once or twice a day. That you'll be able to drive, if only on B-roads, and will have enough money not to need insulting concessionary bus passes or cheap theatre tickets. That you will still be able to write and read and dance. That your eyesight will not fail you, or your liver or digestive tract, that your hips will not disintegrate, or your ability to talk sense and remember the words of songs. That your sense of humour won't pack up, shortly after your ability to taste and smell.

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chances are you'll have become Ronald Reagan 10 years later. Some things are beyond money and laws, such as the Celtic generosity that filled my mother's last years with companionship and chat – in a word, society. When we've finished being Dennis H



Toy story: Clara and Conor get to grips with My Pal, the wipe-clean Dalmatian and a fantasy cube. Below left, the bumper bead-frame, and right, a hand-made wooden jigsaw

Kalpesh Lathigra

Toys R so us, darling

Even if designer toys fail to impress the children, they'll look great in your Poggenpohl kitchen. By E Jane Dickson

There is something mainly tragic about censoring toys on aesthetic grounds. I'll never forget the look on my daughter's face when I tried to exchange "Baby", a doll with chartreuse hair and stupendous breasts won in an Italian tombola, for something more tasteful. "But mummy," pleaded Clara, "She can't help being hideous." I felt like Joan Crawford in *Mommie Dearest*. I do not wish my children to grow up sinister toy fascists ("Dear Santa, please send me a staffed rubberwood artefact. Please make sure it's from a renewable timber source"), but on the other hand, the monstrous regiments of Furby must be stopped. There has to be a third way, and Soup Dragon, a toyshop with branches in north and south London, might just have found it.

There is nothing in Soup Dragon's stock (also available by mail order) that the most style-conscious parent would not be thrilled to leave strewn about the parquet for the Christmas drinks party, and children won't feel they've been sold a pup, unless of course, it's My Pal (£24.99), a wood-

en Dalmatian pullalong with a wonderfully responsive action. Designed by a local craftsman, My Pal has proved to be Soup Dragon's most popular toy of the season. His innovative construction – wooden panels on bendy rubber hinges – means that he can chase his own tail in the most satisfying manner. Conor, 11 months, was deeply smitten, lavishing jammy kisses and looking perpetually surprised and delighted to find faithful Pal bowing along behind him. Clara, who at three, is more of a design connoisseur, particularly approved the waggoness of his tail.

Older children will enjoy Soup Dragon's build-your-own automata (£12.30-£15.90). By a remarkably simple peg and ratchet arrangement you can make your man laugh, clap or cycle to beat the band.

At the ever so slightly anal end of the scale, there are George Luck's exquisite picture jigsaws. Framed and glazed like a work of art, these hand-tooled wooden jigsaws feature maps of Great Britain and Ireland or Europe; the interlocking pieces are fashioned in the shape of animals indigenous to each region. This is definitely one for the nursery wall and, at £39.50, is probably

more in the christening gift than the Christmas present league.

Another reliable source of handsome, well-made toys is The Hill Toy Company. Their bumper bead-frame (£42.50) has become a contemporary style icon. Frankly, if you go to dinner at any smart house containing

this way, there are no bits to be swallowed or pushed up small noses and it does look nice against the Poggenpohl. It kept Conor absorbed for 20 minutes at a stretch, which is good going for a tiny, while Clara made up affecting stories about the "little lonely bead going to join his friends".

Lytlebox front, Hill Toys' minimalist natural wood Jumbo Bricks were a bit of non-event. Pleasingly post-modern in shape, they are all very chic and Scandinavian but at the end of the day, they did seem a bit well, colourless. In a control experiment shaped coloured bricks, Conor went for the colours every time.

Lytlebox is a Cornish mail-order company which imports toys from around the world. Their German-made walking dog (£39.99) is the kind of toy that will become a family heirloom. As the child rocks, the completely non-mechanical dog "walks", or rather, creeps across the floor. It certainly hit the right note with Clara, who went so far as to include it, pointedly, in her bedtime story.

Less successful is Lytlebox's snapping crocodile, £9.99. Beautifully designed, it is labelled as "unsuitable for children under 36 months" but it is hard to see what any self-respecting child over three would want with a push-along toy.

Finally, if money is no object you could push the boat/car/spaceship out with Dawson and Son's Fantasy Cube, a lovingly finished "life-size" wooden construction set with

enough pegs and cogs and ratchety-ratchety things to keep Isambard Kingdom Brunel happy straight through till tea. Conor went for the whirligigs on the front, while Clara pronounced the cube a sleigh and her brother a reindeer and improvised herself a microphone for a shouty version of "Rudolf". If £265 seems a lot to shell out for some very basic materials, bear in mind this is an imagination-powered toy that will grow with your children.

One cautionary note about designer toys. Your children will naturally abandon them on Christmas morning for the Lap Dancer Barbie that was sent by an unsuitable uncle. But your playroom will never have looked so good.

Stockists: Soup Dragon, 27 Topsfield Parade, Tottenham Lane, London N8 8PT (0181-348 0224); and 106 Lordship Lane, London SE22 8JF (0181-693 5575); mail order catalogue orderline 0870 606 1202. The Hill Toy Company, 71 Abingdon Road, London W8 6AW (0171-937 3797); mail order 01763 689955/0870 6071248. Lytlebox mail order 01872 580885. Dawson and Son mail order 01480 309305

DESIGN NEWS

FOR THOSE in search of one-off presents – for themselves, for example – Contemporary Crafts' seasonal show may well be the answer. Thirty designers and craftspeople have contributed objects of delight, from steel-mesh pod and leaf mobiles by Amanda Bright, to enamel brooches by Judy McCraig.

Contemporary Crafts is at Avant Garden, 71 Ledbury Road, London W11; until 24 December, Mon-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2-6pm (0171 243 4855).

SOTHEBY'S BESTOWS glamour to the miserable business of late-night Christmas shopping with a sale of selected items including jewellery, wine, rugs, pictures and silver, on 15 December at 6.30pm. Prices start at £50, and a gift wrap service is available. At Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond St, London W1 (0171 406 5152), viewing Fri 12 Dec, 9am-4.30pm; Sun 14, 12 noon-4pm; and Mon 15, 9am-5.30pm.

IF LEATHER, fake fur and feathers are your thing, snuggle up to Samson Saboye's throws and cushions. These are not your average home accessories, but the work, it's claimed, of a true Afro-futurist.

At Bonwoop, 70 Princetown Road, London W11, until 24 December, 10am-6pm (0171 792 8532).

NINE MEMORIAL exhibitions mark the first anniversary of the death of the potter R J Washington (1913-97). A pupil of William Staite Murray (Bernard Leach's competitor for the title of Britain's first studio potter) and like him the maker of tall, tapering pots – some fashioned as women – Washington worked and taught in clay for more than 60 years.

The retrospective at Chelmsford & Esser Museum (01245 353065) runs until 7 Feb 1999. Smaller shows at V&A, London, until 31 Dec (0171 938 8500); Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge until 20 Dec (01223 332900); Paul Rice Gallery, London until 19 Dec (0181 992 4186); Birmingham City Museum & Art Gallery until 10 Jan 1999 (0121 303 2834); Cleveland Craft Centre, Middlesbrough until 4 Jan 1999 (01642 523276); The Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent until 31 March 1999 (01782 232323); Portsmouth City Museum until 15 Jan 1999 (01705 827261).



Pot by R J Washington

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HAVE YOU done your Christmas shopping yet? Only two more Saturdays to go before it's too late, so abandon all hope of the High Street and do the rest by mail order. You're still in time to phone the following companies for a selection of stylish, unusual and relatively inexpensive gifts.

The General Trading Company
Excellent selection of decorative accessories for the home, traditional styles as well as more unusual gifts, such as a woven blue and neutral raffia laundry basket from Madagascar (£60), or a range of bathroom accessories featuring wooden bird sculptures from £22. Last orders: 21 December. 144 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171 730 0411)

Graham & Greene
Small but select mail-order catalogue with a diverse range of items, from chic soft suede cushions (£62, pictured) to four bamboo-handled cutlery (16-piece, dishwasher-proof, £44.25). Last orders: 14 December. 47-10 Elgin Crescent, London W11 (0171 727 4594)



Aeromall
Designer furniture and accessories, ranging from classics like the Le Corbusier chaise longue in leather (£695, £720 in pony-skin) or a cocktail table by Eileen Gray (£180), to wool blankets in black, grey and camel with contrasting stitching (from £94.99), and

an anodised aluminium bed tray (£79.95) which is both stylish and practical. Last orders: 12 December. 99 Westbourne Grove, London W2 (0171 221 1950)

Bodleian Library
Bibliophile friends will be thrilled by the Bodleian's catalogue. Try the Victorian

books mouse mat (£9.99), and a set of four Edward Lear mugs featuring Spotty Bird, Stripy Bird, Humble Bird and Lilac Bird from Lear's *Queery Leary Nonsense* (£20). Last orders: 18 December. Broad Street, Oxford (01865 277091)

AMICIA DE MOUBRAY

REVOLVING MIRROR-tiled glitter globes, which have been reflecting romantic darts of light in ballrooms since the 1920s, have suddenly got bigger and funkier. Kay Spinks makes them up to seven feet high, in complex, geometric shapes that turn the dark interiors of nightclubs and discos into swirling kaleidoscopes.

Mirror globes merely remind dancers that they are enclosed in a cube. But what about a dodecahedron, or the massive helix that revolves in the stairwell of London's Hanover Grand nightclub? It makes the clubbers going up and down the winding staircase feel as though they are passing through a spiral galaxy.

Legends, the Mayfair nightclub, has a three-foot wide dodecahedron with 12 spheres on stalks, which bounces coloured lights of the diadems worn by all-night revellers. Spinks, a 27-year-old art college graduate, is the founder of London design company Glitter and Twisted. She sculpts shaped from fire-retardant polystyrene, then sticks on up to 20,000 rubber-backed mirror tiles with fire-retardant glue.

Brendan Clarke, of Insight Lighting of Islington in north London, provides lighting for

social events and has so far bought three of Spinks' creations. "They're amazing," he says. They have a glitziness that reaches beyond normal disco lighting and into the future. "We project imagery on to them – an oil effect, for example – which breaks up and goes everywhere. They describe their own shape on the surface of the room. You can get some quite amazing effects, such as crossed reflections. I'm surprised that more people are not buying them for the home."



Revolving light at the Hanover Grand Nicola Kurtz

Spinks has made 20 "mirror objects", as she calls them, since launching Glitter and Twisted in February. The designs are commissioned by clients – with the help of a textbook of geometric shapes – and take four weeks to make.

She says: "I like to make shapes with geometric forms, some sort of order. If the forms are too organic, they get tricky."

The Opera House nightclub in Bournemouth has also installed six glittering sculptures by Spinks. These are similar to the one in the Hanover Grand, which is a popular hangout with the Spice Girls and Leonardo Di Caprio.

Twydien Moore, director of the Hanover Grand, encouraged her to reach for the stars and build a 7ft-tall glitter sculpture for the club. Powered by an electric motor in the ceiling, it reflects red, yellow and white light from spotlights on to the purple walls.

"It creates a flowing sensation," he says. "Glitter globes have been used since the 1920s, but they're still relevant to the modern dance scene. They're so simple – and so beautiful."

JOHN WINDSOR

Prices: £800-£1,200, Glitter and Twisted, 0171-281 9319

Aliens beneath the ice?

Is there life on Mars? Who cares – underwater Europa is the top space destination. By David Whitehouse

If the myriad varied worlds in our solar system, there is for many planetary scientists one place they really want to go – only one mission they would like, in their heart of hearts, to work on. It is not to red Mars, to shepherd rovers across its rock-strewn surface using probes and diggers to prospect for evidence of past, and possibly present, life.

It is not to build a probe to fly alongside a comet as it draws near the Sun, watching it change from a frozen mountain to a seething world of gas geysers and dust fountains trailing gossamer spirals in between the planets.

No, for many scientists neither of these missions is number one. The fact is that you cannot talk about Europa for very long without yearning to know more. It is Europa that many believe offers the best chance to find extraterrestrial life in our solar system.

This moon of Jupiter – the fourth-largest of its 12 satellites – is not a lot smaller than our own moon. It's a smooth, ice-crusted world, covered by pits and plateaux. There are chaotic regions, and there are regular streaks that traverse vast distances across this tiny world. Some of these lines have an almost artistic look about them – as if they were motorways for some alien transport system.

Beneath the frozen landscape

there are titanic energies at work. Tides probably cause the ice surface to rise and fall by 20 metres every three days.

The tidal energy is significant. As the ice and rock flex, their movement pumps energy into the interior of Europa, into the rocks below its icy skin. The interior rocks get hot. Because of this, scientists estimate that the ice just above the rock would melt, forming a liquid ocean under the ice.

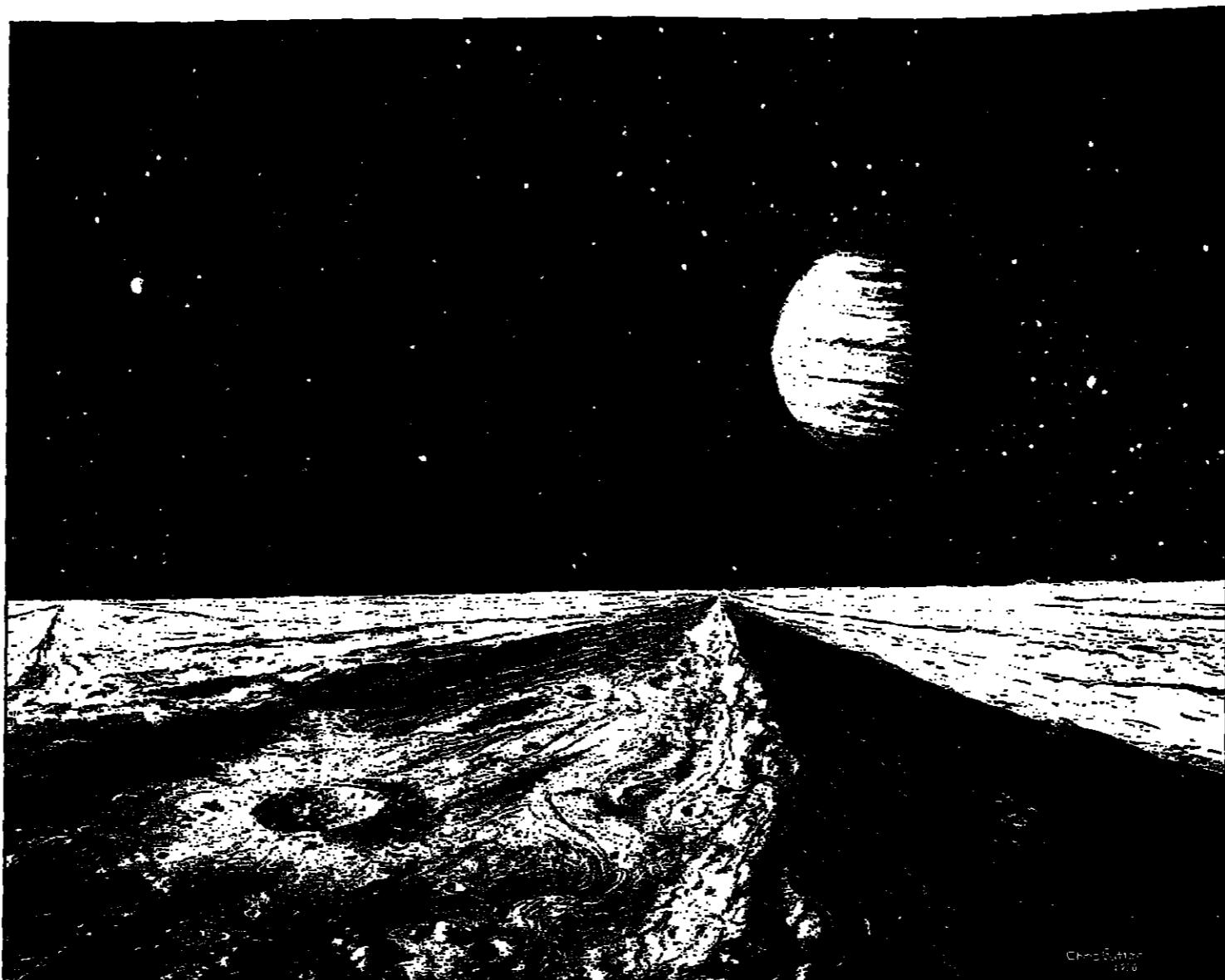
So there it is. Four hundred million miles away there could be a water environment rich in chemicals and minerals and kept liquid by hot vents where superheated water gushes through fissures from the hot rocks below. All protected from the vacuum of space by a layer of ice more than 1 kilometre thick. This has been a stable environment for possibly tens of millions of years.

To many scientists this means that the essential ingredients are there for life to have evolved. But it's no use just sending a probe to orbit Europa, in order to see whether there really is life there, you have somehow got beneath its skin and swim in its sunless seas.

It would perhaps be the most difficult space mission ever envisaged. At the moment it is not much more than a dream sketched out in a hazy ill-defined plan.

The first stage is to send a space probe to orbit Europa, to determine whether there really is a liquid ocean underneath the moon's ice. Nasa scientists said this week that the plans for the probe's instruments are almost finalised, and an announcement is expected early next year, with a launch date scheduled for 2003.

After that, the real mission begins. This time there will be no at-



An artist's interpretation of the surface of Europa, the smallest of all the moons of Jupiter

Science Photo Library

tempt to enter orbit around Europa; instead the probe will make a direct descent to its icy surface. To stop its being dashed to pieces on Europa's hard ice, retro-rockets would fire to reduce speed. One minute before impact, huge, inflatable balloons would envelop the probe to cushion its impact, dissipating energy as it bounced across the ice. This system worked on Mars, which is a rough world. Europa is a smooth sphere, so it should work there too.

Imagine, in the not too distant future, the following sequence of events. The balloons deflate in the correct order, leaving the probe standing the right way up on the surface. The balloons release, into Europa's thin, almost non-existent atmosphere, more gas than it has known for billions of years. Harpoons fired in several directions drag behind them curtains of thin foil, thin, flexible solar panels to add to the energy output of the craft's main nuclear generator.

The cylinder that forms the core of the probe heats up and begins to

descend into the ice, boring a hole just 30cm across. Once the probe disappears, the water refreezes almost instantaneously.

Emerging hours later into the sea beneath the ice, the probe starts to fall faster. Tiny sensors detect its acceleration and pull the data cable taut, bringing the probe to a halt.

The first task is to wait, and listen. Sensitive microphones strain for the sounds of this alien ocean, the creaking of the ice above and the "ping" of an acoustic sounder. Then the bullet-shaped probe unfurls an array of sensors. A series of electronic tongues taste the water and provide a rapid chemical analysis.

Two searchlights, one narrow to look as far as possible, the other a wide beam, illuminate a sunless sea, the first bright lights in tens of millions of years, perhaps longer.

A smaller sub-probe is jettisoned and darts away, straight down, trailing a fibre-optic cable behind it. For long minutes it continues to fall. Nothing is seen yet by its television camera, other than a featureless

pool of light. Then rocks come into view. Within a millisecond the Europa submersible's on-board computer has worked out how far below it lies the sea floor and how long it will take to get there.

Its descent is leisurely – it has many measurements to make on the way. Periodically it halts to take readings of temperature, pressure and water composition. Samples of the water are scooped into a tiny container, and a powerful microscope looks for any sign of microbial life.

Reaching the sea floor is only half of its journey. It now has to find a hydrothermal vent. Its sensors have detected a chemical gradient and it heads off in the direction of the increased concentration, moving upstream in a river of sulphur compounds swirling at the bottom of this strange, ice-covered ocean in a distant world.

After two hours of travel by the probe, scientists are wondering whether it will ever reach the vent. They are concerned for the power supply. Then they spot the vent as a red leek on the infrared display.

From now on, monitoring the water temperature around the probe is an all-important task. It would be all too easy to swim it into a column of superheated water that would melt the craft in seconds.

To prevent this, thermometers on stalks precede the probe.

Its searchlights sweep the sea floor and the path ahead.

Soon the hydrothermal vent itself comes into view, a jumbled mound of rocks about five metres high. Out of the top of the rock pile can be seen a winding column of black water.

Back on Earth such vents are nicknamed "black smokers", and are known for being oases of life on the barren sea floor.

The probe halts, its cameras focusing in on the area around the base of the mound. Could this be the moment we catch our first sighting of an alien life form?

Dr David Whitehouse is science editor of BBC online

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UPDATE

A URINE test developed in Ireland could soon identify people who have been unknowingly dosed with the "date rape" drug Rohypnol, a powerful sedative that can also cause amnesia for up to 24 hours. *New Scientist* reports that the test can work up to a week after the drug has been taken. Rohypnol has been implicated in a number of rapes, because it is odourless and tasteless dissolved in water. Thousands of women believe they have been raped after men slipped it into their drinks.

FOETAL PIG cells implanted into the brains of two American men whose epileptic seizures could not be controlled by drugs seemed to have improved their condition, according to preliminary results. Dr Steven Schachter, of Harvard Medical School, carried out the surgery, putting in cells that produce a neurotransmitter, GABA, as part of a study to see whether the transplants are feasible and safe. One man, aged 40, had suffered one seizure per month before the operation in July, but had none since; the other had 22 in three months before the implant, compared to 13 afterwards. But it is still too soon to know how useful such an approach might be, Dr Schachter said.

IMPRINTING, WHEREBY only one of a pair of genes inherited from parents is "switched on" in an embryo, may explain why some species cannot interbreed – and why some cloning attempts may fail.

According to researchers at Princeton University, New Jersey, mating two closely related species of mouse led to both copies, rather than one, of the imprinted genes being switched on. Equally, eggs from one species may be unable to "read" the imprinting proteins from another's sperm, says *New Scientist*. That would stop attempts to use cows' eggs as a "vessel" for cloning other species too.

JOHN REDWOOD, now the shadow Science Minister, told a meeting of Save British Science last week that the Conservatives "made mistakes" in cutting science funding when they were in power, but added, "We have changed". SBS, it may be recalled, was set up 12 years ago as a direct response to the Tories' cuts in science funding.

Mr Redwood also said that he welcomed the new Labour administration's increase in the science budget – £700m over three years. But he added that the Conservatives would put more emphasis on tax incentives to encourage private investors to put money into research.

POWERFUL MAGNETS affect the way that cells divide, according to a team at Brown University in Rhode Island. By levitating frog embryos using magnetic fields about half a million times stronger than the Earth's, they found that the direction of cell division was changed compared to that seen in normal gravity without excess magnetism. *New Scientist* reports that the team is now looking for precise causes involving long cell components called microtubules.

UP TO 38 per cent of all the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is produced by respiration in the soil – where roots and similar carbon sources may be encouraged to perform more oxidation by higher temperatures, says Richard Boone, of the University of Alaska.

That could mean that global warming will increase the amount of the greenhouse gas produced by the soil, and lead to a positive feedback loop. The report appears in this week's *Nature*.

THE ONLY working reactor at Chernobyl in Ukraine developed a fault that forced the operators to lower its output power twice this week. In one incident, one of the 200 safety rods, which stop the reaction, became cut off from its power supply. Another had trouble with a turbine pump.

None of these problems caused a radiation leak, but pressure is now growing for the ageing reactor to be shut for a safety upgrade. However, many towns and villages in the former Soviet country already suffer power cuts for hours each day because of fuel shortages, so the repairs have been put off for two weeks thus far. In 1986 one of the four reactors at the site blew up in the world's worst nuclear accident, when a late-night test went wrong.

CHARLES ARTHUR

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THE TRUTH ABOUT... THE MISSING LINK

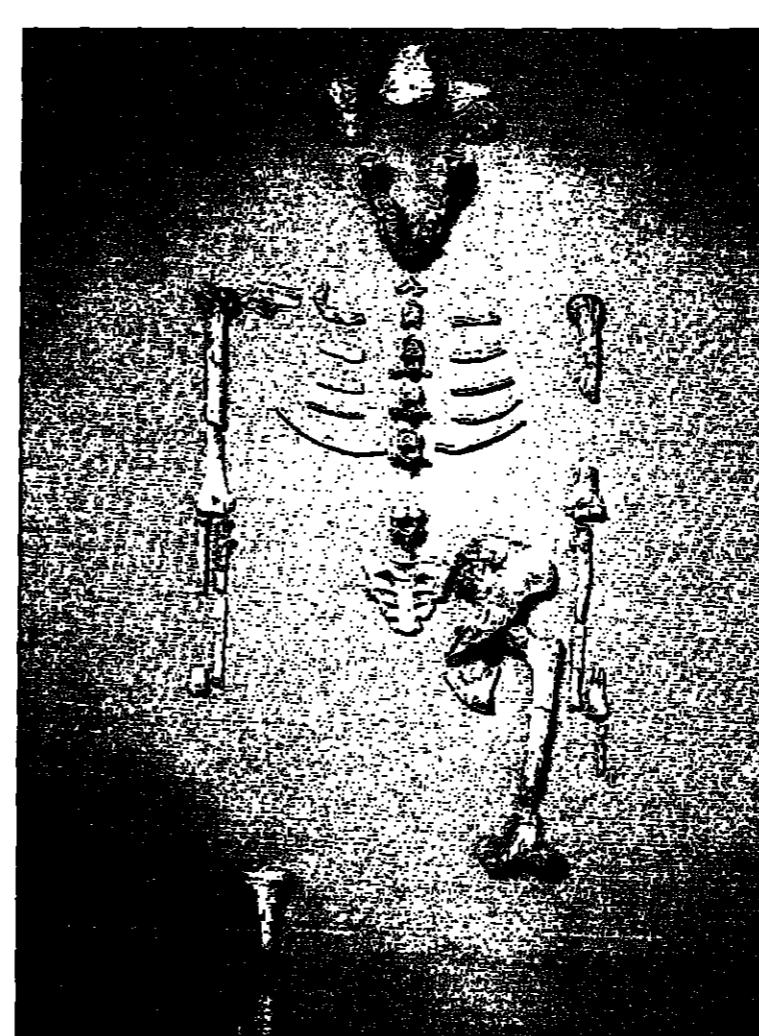
ONE OF the greatest myths of human evolution is that there is a "missing link" that will provide palaeontologists with the final piece in the historical jigsaw of Man. The fact is that there are hundreds or thousands of missing links in the complex, long-winded tale of how a tree-climbing ape came down to the forest floor and started to walk upright and develop the intellectual capacity to speak and think.

This does not mean, however, that the story is lost for ever. A few critically important fossils, dating to various points in the period that has elapsed since humans and apes shared a common ancestor, have enabled experts to build up a remarkable picture of how humankind evolved into what we are today.

One of the most remarkable fossils will undoubtedly turn out to be the oldest complete skeleton of a hominid – an ape-like creature that is not quite fully human – which was discovered in the limestone caves of Sterkfontein near Krugersdorp in South Africa. Philip Tobias, emeritus professor of palaeontology at the University of Witwatersrand, who has been in charge of the site's excavation for 30 years, said this week that the skeleton is "probably the most momentous find ever made in Africa".

The skeleton is of a 4-ft-tall creature that lived between 3.22 and 3.6 million years ago, and scientists have classified it as a member of the group known as *Australopithecus*. Raymond Dart, palaeontologist, first coined the name in the 1920s after discovering the front half of a 2.5-million-year-old skull, with jaws and teeth, of what is known as the "Taung child", after the place it was found. Dart gave it the scientific name *Australopithecus africanus* – southern ape of Africa.

Several species of the Australopithecines have since been described, including the famous 3-million-year-old "Lucy", a half-complete skeleton discovered in 1974 in the Afar region of present-day Ethiopia. Lucy, a female barely 3ft tall, seemed to offer the first glimpse of the anatomical adaptation to bipedalism, according to the palaeoanthropologist Richard Leakey. "By definition, the first hominid species to have evolved, some 7 million years ago, would



"Lucy" Australopithecus afarensis skeleton, found in 1974 NHM

have been a biped ape of sorts. But until the Lucy skeleton came along, anthropologists had no tangible evidence of bipedalism in a human species older than about 3 million years."

Tantalising remnants of

skeletons, bits of bones and half-complete skulls, have been found of hominid-like animals even older than the Sterkfontein skeleton. The most famous is Ramapithecus, found in India and Kenya. Ramapithecus, found in India and Kenya, is in east Africa, dated to perhaps 14 million years old. Although these were originally thought to be "missing links" in the line of human evolution, scientists now believe they were related to other lines of apes that diverged from the

hominids who evolved into humans.

It is another ape-like creature,

Ardipithecus ramidus, alive about 5 million years ago, which is the strongest contender for ancestor of the Australopithecines.

Ardipithecus was not blessed

with a large brain but its upright

gait was clearly adapted to a life

spent out of the trees for at least

some of the time. It took another 2.5

million years, after the

Australopithecines had evolved into

even more human-like creatures,

for the first true human – *Homo habilis* – with its greatly increased

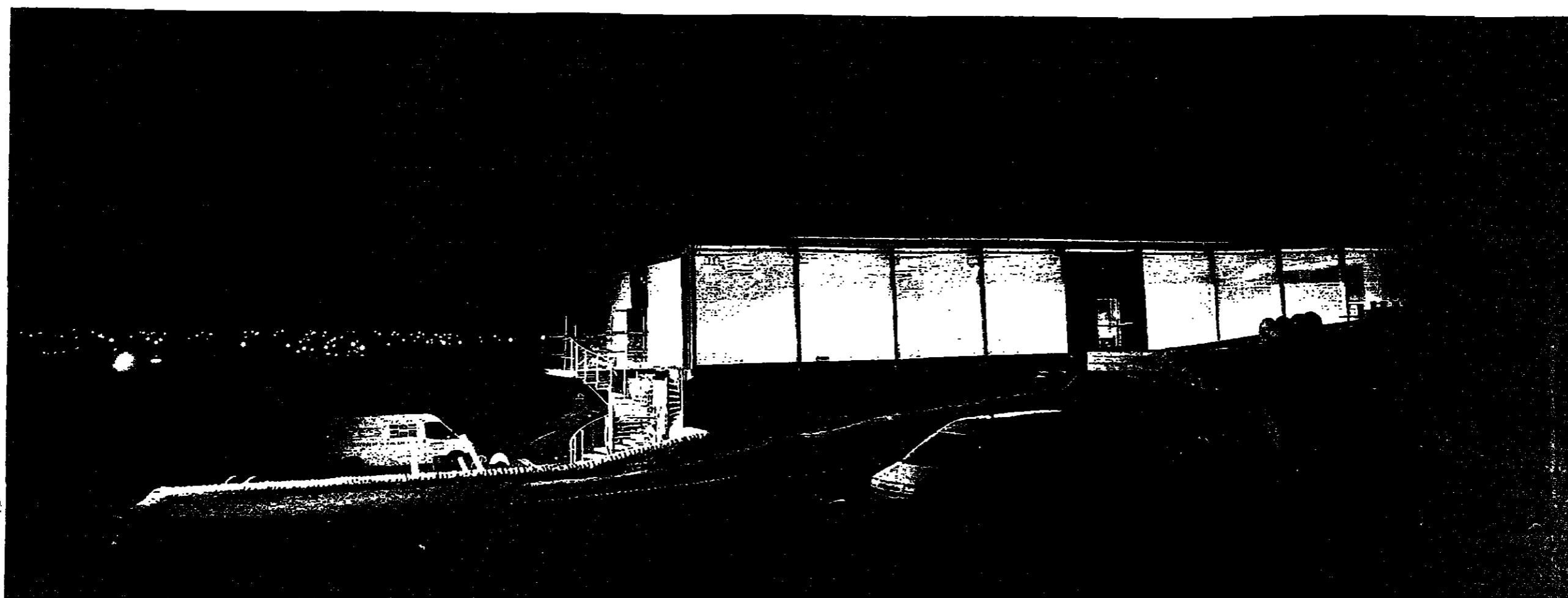
brain capacity, to appear. As the name suggests, *H. habilis* was

handy with tools.

STEVE CONNOR

The po

Will the Earth move anyone?



The water purification plant at the Earth Centre by Will Alsop opens as a tourist attraction at Easter

Dennis Gilbert

The Earth Centre was supposed to be a Millennium landmark, an ecological glass house to bring the rainforest to Doncaster. But the party spirit may not survive electric rickshaws, airline loos, and lessons in sustainable development. By Nonie Niesewand

All over Britain, lottery-funded tourist centres and modern museums in the middle of business parks herald the dawning of the New Millennium.

But from Earth in Edinburgh, to the Eden Project in Cornwall, from the Deep marine complex in Kingston-upon-Hull to the Centre for Life in Newcastle, the Millennium projects are in trouble. Within a year of opening, all of them have scaled down their original architecturally exciting schemes. With lottery grants dependent on matching funds from commercial sponsors, the dreams often turn into mere pedestrian bricks and mortar.

Pity the poor organisers of the Earth Centre, outside Doncaster, who had to kick-start sustainable eco-chic ideas in a closed-down coal mine. They had to reject would-be sponsors who were not squeaky clean enough for the greens, as well as become the environmentally-friendly model for the construction and landscape industry. Even common-garden fly-spray in the organic gardens has been replaced by marigold, mint and basil borders.

The Earth Centre nestles in the once-lag heap left by two closed coal mines, Cadeby and Denaby, outside Doncaster in south Yorkshire. It looks green enough, with 35 acres of expensive top-soil covering the heap, a forest woodland taking root and latticed domes as plant-climbing frames to make the featureless landscape more interesting.

There is an organic food restaurant, the Planet Earth visitor centre and a water purification plant for waste water, with aquatic plants growing in it. The 400-acre site

measures up to the chief executive Jonathan Smales's definition of sustainability, which he explains as "finding a way to live on this planet, that enables human development but which doesn't irrevocably damage systems, so that the generations coming after us have the same basic rights."

Put that together with the Millennium Commission's tough remit to find 50/50 funding and maintain visitor levels without dumbing down, and you will see how hard the Earth Centre has battled to get off the drawing board.

And will it attract the projected 500,000 visitors in its first year? Green tourists arriving by train, bike or foot will be rewarded with a 40 per cent discount on their £15 entrance fee. But motorists will pay the full fee, and be whisked from the car park by the bike train - the first electrically assisted, pedal-powered rickshaw in Europe. On launch day this week, it had broken down.

The newly installed waterless loos weren't working either. "It's so powerful that it would suck you into the sewage system and blow you away," Mr Smales explained when he refused to let me visit this particular tourist attraction. The waterless lavatories are billed by Earth Centre spin doctors as second only to the "amazing rotating Planet Earth Galleries" and the solar-powered frames to make the featureless landscape more interesting.

There is an organic food restaurant, the Planet Earth visitor centre and a water purification plant for waste water, with aquatic plants growing in it. The 400-acre site

water into ponds to sustain plant life, and a featureless wedge of a limestone building, tucked into the disused colliery, by Richard Feilden and Peter Clegg.

These are the amazing rotating Planet Earth Galleries. Inside two exhibition halls, two 20-minute shows are staged. If Stephen Hawking is to be believed, two kilograms of matter hurtling about in the void exploded in a flash of light with a bang big enough to form our little planet Earth, but the sound and light show played out on glass panels in the centre of Planet Earth sounds a trifle subdued. The Earth music is played up from the floor in solemn E-flat pieces from Bach and Mahler, while the outer fringes have shrill, F-Flat sounds accompanying images of pollution. This is actually a

crowd-control device to keep visitors moving into the middle, away from the fringes and on towards the shop.

Planet Earth will have a dark, subterranean feel - a bit like being underground in a coal mine - and the acoustics have a nine-second echo like that in a cathedral. The most remarkable feature of the down-to-earth building is a labyrinth floor which regulates the temperature of

the building without energy loss by drawing in air through vents, warming - or cooling - it, then recirculating the air.

If the system works - and the Romans pioneered the idea - why does this Millennium landmark project open next Easter, only to close six months later for the winter?

In *The Future Works* newsletter, Jonathan Smales explains that the Earth Centre exists to help individuals make decisions, however small, that will make a significant and positive impact on the future. "Our role is to show that people can influence the world around them, and that global environmental problems like climate change and the loss of biological diversity are not abstract concepts but real issues that relate to their lives." So why don't they stay open in the winter and show us how to keep warm and dry without puncturing the ozone layer?

What the Earth Centre needed was a big, state-of-the-art greenhouse with climate controls. Ironically, because that is exactly how it started out, with a huge, glazed Ark spreading its butterfly wings of solar-powered cells over the slag heaps. The Ark, by Future Systems, was designed to use sunlight to create an indoor rainforest and replicate different climate zones. One of the first projects to apply successfully for lottery money (£50m), the Earth Centre started off as a swan but ended as an ugly duckling.

So far the Millennium Commission have only given them £20m, so now everyone talks about the 66-acre development as Phase One. Phase Two will be Alsop's lopsided, crinkly tower, 28 metres high with a silicone

glass skin over steel. Set to open in April 2000, the tower will house the "new Millennium cities show" which raised £4.5m from the EU regional development fund.

The Earth Centre is not so much recycled as reinvented. Acid rain couldn't have been more destructive to the Ark than the tinkering about with the original concept. Jonathan Smales still insists that the Ark will be built in Phase Three, but can't say when that will be. The "techno-organic architecture" that was to be an ecological masterpiece, will instead house a convention centre servicing the business park office blocks and new hotels also planned.

The centre's new MD, Alastair Creamer from London's Chicken Shed theatre company for children, is full of optimism. "This is a must-see attraction," he said. "For me, it has become a 'must work for' one." Once, the two coal mines here employed 2,000 people, but since the last pit closure in 1983, seven out of 10 families have stayed out of work in what is one of the most deprived areas of Britain.

As Britain turns into a service industry, the unemployed will be trained as shop assistants, minders, greeters and waiters. The Earth Centre is recruiting 120 men and women to train at its Academy. So when it opens, former coal miners and their families will be back down at the old pit, dressed up in Swamby-style fatigues to amuse the kids. Earthonauts, zooming about on mountain bikes, will monitor the crowds.

And the locals still ask Jonathan Smales: "What does the Earth Centre make?"



An oak climbing frame for plants will provide shelter in a couple of years

Dennis Gilbert

The pod's passé and the soap-dish is a dud

ONCE AGAIN Tony Blair's Government has proved that although they might be great at buzz words and big ideas, they are not prepared to put their money where their mouth is.

Government after government in this country has failed to understand one basic fact that our French and German neighbours grasped ages ago: nothing places you in the history books better than a great building.

All over Europe, cities from Paris to Berlin to Marseilles have important public buildings by cutting-edge architects. Creating a new building for the new Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority was an opportunity for Blair to translate Cool Britannia into a monument for his vision. We've already seen an out-of-date design for our millennium "experience" down in south-east London. Now there is a very strong chance that a building designed in the Twenties, looking like a feeble version of Selfridges or Leeds Town Hall, may be tarted up, decked out in glass ("transparency" being a big buzz word in Government these days) and have a few pods inserted into its guts to provide an Assembly Chamber for our Mayor and his cohorts.

The Minister for London, Nick Raynsford, upset a lot of people by asking the estate agents Knight Frank and Rutley to come up with suitable sites for the Mayor's home.

Norman Foster and Will Alsop created exciting government buildings in Europe. So why doesn't new Labour want a monument to London's new Mayor, asks Janet Street-Porter

Trouble is, Blair's big idea came with no cash, so a "partnership" (another Labour buzz word) was called for. Basically, developers have proposed buildings or vacant lots and it is developers who have put architects in place, not Raynsford. The developers pay for the building and lease it to the GLA for 15 years. That hardly adds up to a massive vote of confidence in the lifespan of London's new governing body on the part of the Government, does it?

After an exhibition attended by 1,000 people, two locations were chosen. Five hundred and thirty-four questionnaires were filled in and the two finalists are a vacant lot opposite the City of London on the south bank of the Thames, Potter's Fields, and the grandiose, neo-classical Victoria House in Bloomsbury Square.

Norman Foster's sketch design for Potter's Fields is a 10-storey glass sphere that looks like a cross between a Sixties TV set and a soap-dish. Will Alsop of Alsop and Stormer has tinkered with Victoria House, re-

moving three floors and adding a large veneered pod as an Assembly Chamber. The roof would be raised to accommodate the extra office space the scheme needs to be viable to the developer. Both architects have designed stylish government buildings, Foster in Berlin and Alsop in Marseilles. But this ham-fisted exercise, while making financial sense, does them no favours.

Consider Victoria House, sitting on the eastern side of Bloomsbury Square in all its imperialistic glory. Designed by Charles William Long and built between 1825-32, it expresses the paternalism and pretentiousness of an insurance company with an imposing facade decorated out with three-storey columns and a pediment. No matter that inside all is marble and fine woods. The message of the architecture is hardly user-friendly and accessible. It doesn't shout fun, community spirit, interactive, multicultural, democratic. It might be listed Grade 2 but in my book it's a



Victoria House: the proposed mayoral assembly chamber

Bloomsbury Square, it is claimed, will be "revitalised" and become a "ceremonial open space". I worked on the other side of the square for a year and always found it quite a delightful place to eat a sandwich. No London is already full of buildings

like Victoria House, albeit pod-less. What our Mayor needs is a brand new building that reflects our wonderful city, not New Labour's threadbare election promises. And if it is to be a soap-dish, then hold a proper competition first.

America - at any price

His humour may on occasion be tasteless, but 10 years after *Holidays in Hell*, it's still what PJ O'Rourke does best. By Mike Higgins



PJ O'Rourke on poverty: 'I remember being hungry. For a day or two'

INTERVIEWERS EXPECT a roarin', tootin', baccy-chewin' brawler when they meet Patrick James O'Rourke, Hunter S Thompson with a better haircut, perhaps. When, as in my case too, a polite, smart, middle-aged American author offers them tea (and nothing stronger), there's a slight sense of bewilderment. What? No half-drained Jack Daniels bottles lying around?

In truth, O'Rourke ceased years ago to bear much resemblance to the no-nonsense foreign correspondent who emerged from the pages of *Holidays in Hell*, the book which made his name outside the States in the late Eighties. He's certainly conservative, but less wilful in person than his wise-cracking literary alter-ego. And his new book, *Eat the Rich*, continues O'Rourke's desire to tackle ever bigger issues. This time, it's economics, which he declares is "nine-tenths common sense and the rest of it no one understands".

It's worrying to consider how serious O'Rourke might take himself, though. He is good company, for sure. Yes, he does find his own jokes amusing, but that's understandable because, by and large, they are. The trouble is his tone. One minute he's waxing serious, the next he's teasing his own solemnity with ironic glee. He uses the same trick when he writes. When I ask him, for instance, if the Government is hypocritical to seek the prosecution of General Pinochet while conducting relations with the current Chinese regime, O'Rourke talks sagely about the difficult decisions that face Tony Blair - and then hoots in derision: "Yeah, you've just given Hong Kong back to a pack of murderous assholes!" Which side of the 50-year-old, Irish-American does he want you to remember?

A graduate of both *National Lampoon* and *Rolling Stone* magazine, he doesn't seem content merely to poke fun at anyone. Has the old reactionary become, dare I say it, "responsible"? "Oh, I wouldn't say responsible. More substantive. There were only so many times that I could be the innocent abroad and say: 'Oh gosh, isn't this confusing'?"

These days, O'Rourke's globe-trotting investigations tend to arrive at one broad conclusion - that individuals are best left

to their own devices. For instance, a previous book, *Parliament of Whores*, reckons the US government a bunch of interfering busybodies. *Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics*, meanwhile, takes the mark: "The Hong Kong stock market," he quips at one point, "took a TWA Flight 800." One wouldn't make fun of the victims of a mud-slide in Nicaragua," O'Rourke responds. "One might make fun of the corrupt people who were stuffing all the aid money in their pockets. And you certainly can repeat the black jokes that people in awful circumstances make themselves."

Tasteless they occasionally may be, but O'Rourke's jokes are still what he does best. The more chaotic the country, the better his black humour serves him, as in *Eat the Rich's* chapter on Albania. By contrast, the theorising with which he peppers his travelogue reads like "Friedman Made Easy". Throughout the book, though, you get the impression that the most fundamental problem common to Tanzania, Cuba and Albania is quite simple - they're not the US. "There aren't many large, multi-national, multi-ethnic countries that even half-work," he says. "Considering that it's made up of 250 million people, none of them from the same sort of places and all of whom loathe each other, it's amazing that the US isn't a whole lot worse than it is." Surely "the American fanaticism for turning everything harmless and bland", as noted by O'Rourke himself, is a high price to pay for social harmony and economic success. "It would seem too high a price, sitting here in London. If we were sitting in Bosnia, we might not think so."

O'Rourke thinks his travelling days are over. A one-year-old daughter and a marriage not much older have dictated the subject of his next book: a history of his home town Toledo. One final question, though: does he give money to beggars? "To charity, yes, but to beggars, not very often," reflects the respectable O'Rourke. Then there's the flesh of the O'Rourke of old: "Then again, there's a certain kind of old drunk whom you give a buck to only if he promises to spend it on a bottle of whisky..."

Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics (Picador), £16.99

He does find his own jokes amusing, but that's understandable because, by and large, they are

ally under the poverty line in the US." As a scholarship boy at university in Ohio and then on a fellowship at Johns Hopkins University, O'Rourke says he got by. "When graduate school was over, I was on my own and I was really broke there a couple of times. I remember being hungry - briefly, for a day or two."

After graduate school, O'Rourke rose through the ranks at *National Lampoon*, eventually landing a job at *Rolling Stone* as their international affairs desk chief. There, he struck the literary pose he's maintained in his books ever since - "the stupid American" who pitches up in a foreign country and cracks a few jokes at the expense of its customs, culture and people. It made for a raucous account of the world's trouble spots in *Holidays in Hell*, and the formula is much the same today.

As his horizons expand, though, some of O'Rourke's jokes look a little narrow-minded. In *Eat the Rich*, he admits he has nothing new to say about capitalism or so-

Melting into mediocrity

MUSICAL
THE SNOWMAN
PEACOCK THEATRE
LONDON



The Snowman: all very laborious

before too long. Once they're up there, the ideas run out again.

The *Snowman* stage version should really be a ballet.

The second half is much more fun. Here you have dancing snowmen in kilts and cowboy suits, penguins, reindeer, and Father Christmas himself.

Robert North's choreography

has a certain charm.

Children could do worse than this for their Christmas outing - but I've a feeling they could do better.

CLARE BAYLEY

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

Rib-tickling trouble at mill

THEATRE
HINDLE WAKES
ROYAL EXCHANGE
MANCHESTER

AS THEY were saying before they were so rudely interrupted... Helen Kaut-Hosworn's production of *Hindle Wakes* was running at the Royal Exchange Theatre when the IRA blasted the centre of Manchester apart in 1996. So it is a fine symbolic gesture of defiance that the annulled show now bounces back to inaugurate the splendidly rebuilt and refurbished venue, which now boasts additional studio space.

It is all the more fitting because Stanley Houghton's 1912 comedy is set among the Lancashire cotton mill magnates who would have frequented this vast domed edifice, and the play itself turns on a spirited refusal to be intimidated.

Still looking like a bizarre arachnid spaceship on a time-travel mission, the main theatre-in-the-round is much the same building-within-a-building that it was before. It is

the enveloping ambience that has dramatically altered. Gone is the rather gloomy atmosphere of a cultural cathedral: the play now has the feel of a stylish, seductively lit, cultural mall. And, of course, conversation: this theatre must have one of the most propulsive areas for interval milling and mulling in the world.

Despite being something of a period piece, *Hindle Wakes* continues to offer talking points. A proto-feminist play, it explores the comic fall-out after the son of a cotton tycoon and Fanny Hawthorn, a headstrong mill lass, enjoy a dirty weekend in Llandudno. His parents are divided on what should be done. Played by Sue

Johnston with a lovely mix of nouveau riche swank and mischievous humanity, the mother is determined that he will marry his well-connected fiancée. All gritty integrity and underlying unease, his father (the excellent Ewan Hooper) is equally adamant that he will do the decent thing by Fanny, who is the daughter of an old workmate (the delightfully gentle Colin Proctor) from his pre-plutocratic days.

Houghton shows how, in the ludicrously labyrinthine deliberations that ensue, nobody thinks to consult the feelings of Claire Rushbrook's impressively forthright Fanny, who sits at an angle to everyone else, defiantly clad in her weaver's shawl. The play's attack on double standards extends, shockingly for the era, to Fanny's announcing that sex without love isn't a male preserve. If she was just a fling for

him, what makes him think he was anything more for her?

I could have done without the little model mills and their smoking chimneys which surround the action. Nor could I work out why everything had been painted a ghostly shade of grey. But the warmth and conviction of the company are terrific, with lanky, amusingly sheepish Pearce Quigley tiring the naiveties and circumspect scruples of the toff son in a surprising comic fashion.

Reinforcing the sense that it is an apt choice, the play sometimes seems to be alluding to the present celebratory circumstances. Certainly when the magistrate's father declares that: "If it is the finest in Lancashire and Yorkshire then it goes without saying that it is the finest in England", the laughter had an understandably confident edge.

PAUL TAYLOR

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MUSIC

Mistletoe and whine

Let celebrated singer-songwriter John Shuttleworth be your guide to the special world of the Christmas Number One. You'll wish it could be Christmas every day. With James McNair

When Christmas single time rolls around, 'tis the season for dubious piety, cloying sentimentality and sheer frivolity. As songwriters endeavour to weave words such as "Santa", "Christmas tree" and "lonely" into new concept titles, the record-buying public goes bonkers, and artists stigmatised by age, minor-celebrity or simple lack of talent crawl out of the woodwork to battle with pop's big guns.

Inevitably, there will be novelty songs. Who could forget The Goodies' "Father Christmas Do Not Touch Me", or Benny Hill's Christmas '71 chart-topper "Ernie"? Equally prevalent, it seems, are songs that play on the emotions of the festive season's romantically challenged ("Lonely This Christmas"), songs for kiddies ("Wombeling Merry Christmas"), and songs for the religious ("Saviour's Day", "Mary's Boy Child"). And as we hurtle towards Santa's 2000th delivery, you can't help noticing that it's still the hits of Christmas long past (Slade, Wizard, McCartney, etc) which dominate the festive airwaves. And who better to make sense of all this than Sheffield-based singer-songwriter and former security guard, John Shuttleworth?

What makes a good Christmas single?

Well, sleigh bells. And children. Don't bring the children in too soon, though - just keep them for



John Shuttleworth: 'The right sentiment is important'

the end choruses. The Wizard song does that, as does John and Yoko's "Merry Christmas (War Is Over)". I don't think John and Yoko would have held much truck with children in a play-group situation at the time, though. They were communists, weren't they? Used to stay in bed all the time. Ideally, a good

Christmas track should include a reference to a baby in a manger, but only if it fits. "Manger" only rhymes with "stranger", and you don't want strangers in your house over Christmas, do you? As my song "The Christmas Orphan" says:

"Christmas is a time for the family/but for an orphan how can

it be?" The right sentiment is very important, in fact. Try listening to Adam Faith's "Lonely Pup (In a Christmas Shop)".

Jonah Louie's "Stop the Cavalry" has a lovely military feel, and I love marching round the Christmas tree in time. But there's a problem there, and I'm thwarted in my mission because

there's no room at the back. I get trapped between the radiator and the tree and me sweater gets caught on the branches. I don't stop marching, though - I just mark time till my wife Mary comes to free me.

Wizard's "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day" is another favourite. It's a nice senti-

John Furlong

ment, and I like the way Roy Wood puts on that falsetto when he says "C'mon everybody!" It sounds a bit like Pluto's voice, doesn't it? Lovely.

The limited success of his own Christmas songs... I wanted Sir Cliff to do a cover version of "The Christmas Orphan" as a follow-up to "Saviour's Day", but he was playing tennis with Sue Barker and I couldn't track him down. I asked the club if there was a contact number for him in his locker, but they thought that I was being a bit presumptuous, you know. Maybe I was just a bit late with my pitch; Christmas records have to be done by June. Then again, Sir Cliff's been under a lot of pressure to produce another hit. That's probably why he's caved in and grown a beard. I also wrote "Karen's Tangerine", which was based on a true story about my little girl's benevolences at Christmas. Her plan was to deliver a segment of the orange in her stocking to each needy African village. Looking back, it all seems a bit fanciful.

How John will be spending this Christmas...

It'll just be me, Mary and the kids. To be honest I tend to get a bit depressed around 4 o'clock. With the turkey dinner and the Quality Street churning around in your tummy you start to feel a bit queasy, don't you? Sometimes I go out for a walk in my slippers. The place is just like a ghost town - there's nobody on the street.

LYRIC SHEETS MARTIN NEWELL

People who are tired of Alanis Morissette's angst can now contact The Alanis Morissette Lyric Generator. This Internet device (www.brunching.com) allows the user to punch in their own emotional problems and have them set to Alanis's music.

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A moped fuelled on cow excreta?
How many miles will it do to a litre?
Alanis Morissette

Is it a portable trouser-press?
A seventeenth-century birthing dress?
A Luxembourgian water cress?
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A caravan no longer sold?
A French Canadian wrestling hold?
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or something out on day-release
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When fifth-form angst as poetry
Meets well-paid music therapy
You get the lot on one CD
Alanis Morissette

JOHN'S CHRISTMAS CHOICE '98

Spice Girls: 'Goodbye'
Some lovely harmonies here, but not as lush as we've come to expect. They're missing somebody though, aren't they? They tend to sing in unison, but it's tricky doing harmonies if you're not a good singer. They are, though. They're very good."

Chef: 'Chocolate Salty Balls'
"This gets my tip for this week's number one. It's a jolly, bouncy tune, and it's instructive too, because it gives you a nice recipe for an alternative Christmas dessert. Chef's got a sneaky, night-club kind of voice - a bit like Yogi Bear."



Slade: 'Merry Xmas Everybody' (Remix '98)
"Initially, I thought this was 'Popcorn' by Hot Butter. Some readers won't

remember that - it was a late-Sixties fun track. Noddy's voice seems to be mixed a bit quiet, and it's normally very strident. I prefer the original - this version hasn't even got the verse lyrics. I also notice an Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark influence, and I welcome that. I used to like the way that lad swung his arms - in a military way. It's fascinating, the way that the military thing comes through at Christmas: McCartney's "Pipes Of Peace", "Little

Drummer Boy by David Bowie and Bing Crosby... Jesus wasn't in the army, though, was he? Herod's men were, but that was later."

Alberta: 'Yo-Yo Boy'
"I seem to have misplaced this one - I think it might have gone home with my grand-niece Michela. It's got a nice feel though, and I wouldn't write it off. You only have to think of Mr Blobby's number one in '93 to realise people like to buy something different at Christmas."

Bewitched: 'To You I Belong'

"This sounds just like the Spice Girls, but with the right quota of harmonies. Loved the soaring pan pipes - that's number 65 on my keyboard; don't know what it is on theirs. Bit soppy, though. I expected a bit more teenage angst. Perhaps they should have got in Puff Daddy as guest vocalist."

The Three Degrees/ Alien Voices: 'Last Christmas'
"A long shot for Christmas number one, but this is excellent. Lovely, ebullient rhythm - again akin to a military two-step. Just the kind of thing we've come to expect from Prince Charles' favourite band."

John Shuttleworth, aka comedian Graham Fellows, is on tour in Britain from January 16-March 22. Tel: 0171-287 5010 for details

SLEEVE NOTES

CELEBRITIES INTO politics
will always go. Keith Hellawell, the drugs czar, recently invited Robbie Williams to join an anti-drugs campaign. This week, Robbie stares out from the cover of *The Face* with shadows under his eyes and a bloody nose, accompanied by the caption "Want Some?". In-

side, he reveals that he once took heroin, and last did a line of coke about three weeks ago.

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH C4, Radiohead's Thom Yorke attacked the clichés of celebrity. He says he will perform at the Amnesty International gig out

of guilt: "Radiohead came out of the grunge culture of complaint. It's dawned on us that our problems are irrelevant. It's offensive to have them rammed down your throat on MTV". He's happy using his fame to help Amnesty: "I don't really use it for anything else."

JENNIFER RODGER

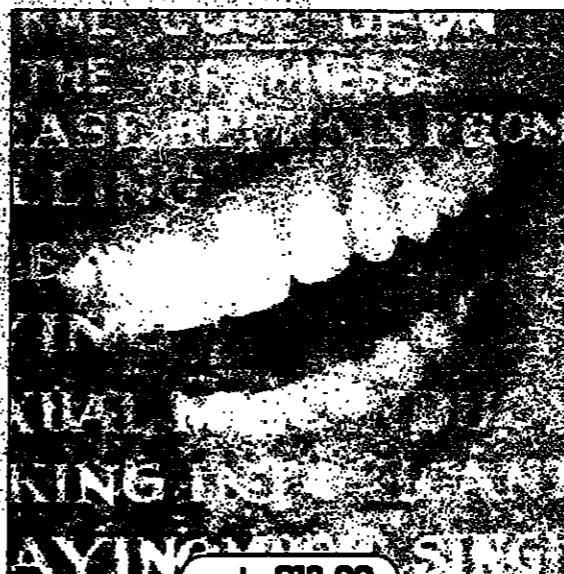
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THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



T-MODEL FORD
You Better Keep Still
Fat Possum

I KNOW precious little about T-Model Ford except that he's quite old, quite black and by the sound of it, quite fond of a drink. Judging by the cover shot of his second album, and the explanatory sleeve quote lifted from the pulp-noir novelist Jim Thompson, he's not a man to be messed with, either: if T-Model tells you You Better Keep Still, then I'd imagine you might not move for a while, for fear of not moving for a much longer while.

Mercifully, such prohibitions are not really a consideration on *You Better Keep Still*, the best of the latest batch of releases from Fat Possum Records, the Mississippi-based home for distressed bluesfolk. Raw and hairy, it barrels along like a runaway train, sweeping the listener up as it rides roughshod over polite blues conventions, eyes barely fixed upon the next drink.

dance or daintiness. And the best way T-Model knows to get happy is to lose himself in the hypnotic throb of something like "To the Left To the Right", a minimalist, shamanic expression of pure exhilaration. "Here Comes Papa" is similar in approach, a primal grind that just rolls over and over, a bulldozer of blues.

It's not all full-on minimalist boogies, though: Ford has a nice line in laid-back blues-raps such as "We Don't Understand", a gentle JJ Cale-style sway supporting a semi-audible story. In his quieter moods Ford can be just as gripping as in "Look What All You Got", a strange, cyclical blues in the Lightnin' Hopkins style with a metre and direction all its own - at times, it sounds as if even T-Model himself isn't sure where it's going, or if it's going to end at all.



BUSTA RHYMES
Extinction Level Event
Elektra

IT'S BEEN a dismal year for hip-hop, with virtually every name performer from Snoop Dogg to Method Man hacking out contemptuously substandard fare. Busta Rhymes is no exception: this album finds him on pseudo-apocalyptic auto-pilot, barely bothering to work up a decent groove, and more than happy to just rattle off a bunch of American place-names or ask the ladies at the back to say "Hooo-ooo", in lieu of actually writing a lyric. The general level of invention can be gauged from "This Means War!", the trumpeted collaboration with Ozzy Osbourne, which to all intents and purposes is simply "Iron Man" with a bit of babbles over the top. Then again, we shouldn't be too surprised: this is, after all, a man so bereft of imagination he even draws inspiration from a film as vacuously sentimental as *Deep Impact*, whose producers vainly tried to foist the catch-phrase *Extinction Level Event* upon an unimpressed world.



VARIOUS ARTISTS
Modulations
Capricorn

SUBTITLED "CINEMA for the ear", *Modulations* is the soundtrack to a documentary about the rise of electronic music, from the measured fascist glamour of "I Feel Love", via Afrika Bambaataa's transmutation of Kraftwerk into "Planet Rock", on to our present level of synthi-saturation, as represented by the jittery jungle of Goldie's "The Shadow". Along the way, most of the requisite boxes are ticked, but, apart from the beautiful arctic wasteland of Ryoko Ikeda's "Luxus 1-3", there's barely any representation of the more abstract style of synthesiser soundscaping on *Modulations*, which is ultimately too fascinated by the form's rhythmic possibilities alone. Nor is there any place here for the true pioneers of electronic music, experimentalists such as Morton Subotnick, Ilhan Mimaroglu and Pierre Henry, who paved the way for all today's supposed cutting-edge developments. Mayon on Volume 2?



SIZZLA
Kalonji
Jet Star

AS THE "slacker" style has dwindled away, Sizzla's star has risen to offer Jamaican youth something more than the dead-end prospect of accommodating, big-bottomed girls and dimwit homophobia. Tracks like "Long Journey Bad Storm" and "Saturated" are the most effective rastafarian sermons in some time, real fire-and-brimstone stuff to exorcise the unbelievers, with a particular emphasis on purity and African heritage. His Afrocentrism adds a new steel to Sizzla's style; proud and passionately political, his more militant raps owe as much to Fela Kuti as to his Jamaican forerunners. Indeed, when I last checked, Sizzla was the only pop performer currently active in the Western world openly advocating wholesale revolution. At least, the only one with any kind of audience. *Kalonji* offers a clever union of rural and urban sensibilities which, while criticising the present situation, points to a more positive future.



RACHID
Prototype
Universal

GREAT THINGS are expected of Rachid, the multi-talented son of Ronald "Kool" Bell, and this impressively crafted debut album pulls out all the stops in attempting to fulfil those expectations. Heavily Prince-influenced, he acknowledges no boundaries to his music, slipping within the space of a single track between funk, drum'n'bass and rock, topping everything off with the kind of melismatic soul crooning that comes from years of Sundays in a Baptist congregation. Religion naturally figures heavily in some songs, but the most striking thing about Rachid is the oddy masochistic cast to his lyrics which characterise love variously as evil, an infection, and a destroyer. Like all would-be soul geniuses - hello, Terence Trent D'Arby - Rachid frequently falls into the twin traps of over-elaboration and over-emoting in his desperation to convince listeners of his greatness, but there's enough individuality in *Prototype* to carry him through.

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY THE SHAMEN'S MR C



First record
Dan Hartman:
'Instant Replay'
A CHEESY disco tune from the seventies, that cost 50p from Chapel Street Market in Islington. It wasn't dear to me, though I recall it played at school discos. At 13, I went through a big disco stage and would go to pubs along Hackney Road. I was into everything from Earth Wind & Fire to electro. Garage is exactly the same as disco, only it uses modern technology. The first important crossover record was "Cutting Herbie" on VEntertainment; it sampled Herbie Hancock's "Rockit", a

Last record
Andy Roberts: 'Mr Roberts' Neighbourhood' (Aquarius) WHENEVER I go record shopping, I buy a load. I listen to the records, go to the distributors. This record starts off with a nice bell noise on a fast drum loop. Then the track breaks down to just bells for 32 bars. It holds you until the bass kicks in, with nice chord stabs, very nice melodies. It's quite a beautiful number. I don't like techno to be minimal and bland. This is quite deep. I would play it late in the night; it is not one to jump about to, but it has got sophistication and trippiness.
JENNIFER RODGER

year or so after it came out. I was a body popper, but when I moved to breakdancing, I decided to pick up the microphone to become an MC.

I'M SURE I SAW THEM ON A POSTER...

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CREEPER LAGOON
BARFLY, CAMDEN, LONDON

ONE LADY OWNER
WATER RATS THEATRE
KING'S CROSS, LONDON

WITCHMAN
ASTORIA, LONDON

inspired considerably more confidence. Creeper Lagoon take you back to the youthful, pre-Britpop era of Dinosaur Jr and Pavement. Their wailing guitars are balanced by sweet, folky melodies and lyrics that brim with

teenage whimsy. But most impressive of all is their unbridled energy. For sheer effort, this band deserve to be famous.

I was lucky to emerge alive from One Lady Owner's gig after squeezing myself through the scrum at the door. They are Creation's latest hot property, discovered by the third Gallagher brother, Paul. They are essentially a souped-up Goth band, and are an interesting departure from the current wave of Oasis imitators. But any fascination with them must surely revolve around their palpable insanity. Their drummer twirled like a tarantula-fuelled child; their shaven-headed vocalist would have looked more at home in a Scandinavian death metal act.

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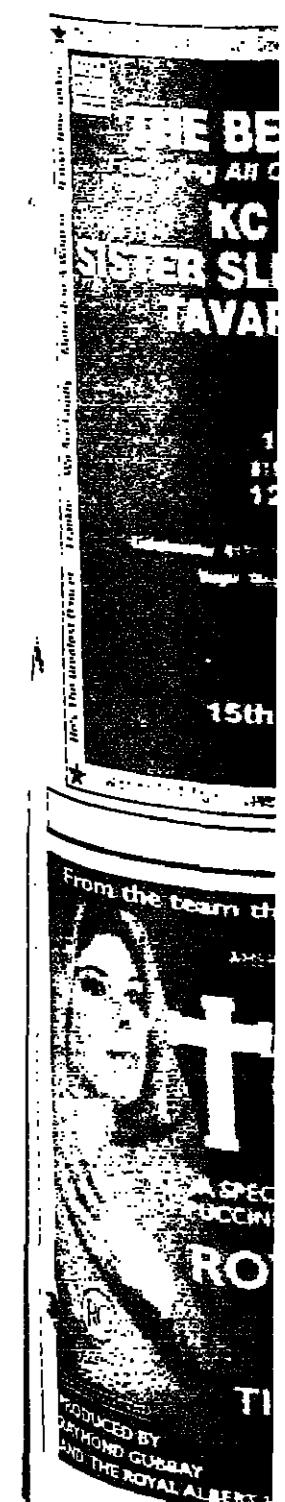
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MEGASTORES



Giant friendly mice on stage and screen

Save your prayers till the decade after. Then visit Duran Duran's hometown to watch them prance around a large white blob. By Steven Poole

DURAN DURAN had a problem with their balls. After a deafening tectonic rumble, accompanied by luminous shafts piercing a starry black cloth, the drapery fell to reveal an oddly themed stage set, with a giant clam shell for the drummer and two enormous white balls on either flank. It turned out that these abominable spheres were perfect for projecting blinky eyeballs and fun-loving amoebas on to, until one of them started deflating during a hideously messy version of "The Reflex", and after some desultory attempt to restore the ball to its plump splendour, it was dragged off the stage in sorry detumescence.

It would be invidious to make of this a metaphor for Duran Duran's performance, however, because this opening night of their Christmas arena tour was a triumph. Le Bon, dapper in suit and collar, did start off slightly nervously. At one point, after mopping his brow with his forearm, he regarded the looted limb as if it

were an alien extrusion and half-heatedly decided to run it through a New Romantic dance gesture: jerking it out to the side at three different angles, cocking his wrist at the end. It wasn't done with real feeling. He complained about a "little black fish" in his glass of water. But the old camp fluency gradually returned, until Le Bon was prancing

Nick Rhodes remains demonically good at standing still behind his synthesisers

round in rosy swirls of light, doing that turn-around-and-look-surprised-to-see-the-audience-over-your-other-shoulder thing with aplomb. Nick Rhodes, meanwhile, remains demonically good at standing still behind his synthesisers, only bending occasionally to show off his celebrated blond fringe at fetching angles.

And the music? So beautifully modern, so lovingly unmodernised,

The glamorous future-funk of "Girls On Film" or "Planet Earth", the surreal poetry of "Hungry Like the Wolf" ("I smell like I sound"; discuss), the stupidly thrilling nonsense of "Wild Boys" - all pumped out with glorious abandon, with Le Bon's muscular yowl in perfect tune. The only problem was little Warren, the bald, sunglassed guinea

teenager. When the lighters came out for "Save a Prayer", they undulated thinly, like a critically endangered species of firefly. Most ex-Durannies clearly gave up smoking a long time ago, after dropping babies and moving to the suburbs.

Duran have had so many comebacks that to ask for another might seem greedy. They played a few new songs, which tried to be spiky, but the Metallica-noise breakdowns and scarily barked verses couldn't stop the the singalong choruses breaking through, like giant, friendly mice darting through a skirting-board made up of dodgy old samples.

They ended with "Careless Memory" and "Rio". Simon Le Bon did a crazy underwater swimming-dance, Nick Rhodes mysteriously controlled his synthesiser by manipulating thin air, and suddenly Duran Duran were back, songs once more had tunes of sublime, wifely grandeur, and Christmas had come to Birmingham.



Simon Le Bon: that old camp fluency gradually returned

Mike Sharp

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Farewell to that sinking feeling

The *Titanic* soundtrack is the year's best-selling 'classical' CD. But don't jump for the lifeboat just yet: here are our critics' top discs of 1998

AS IF the fact that this year's best-selling "classical" release was James Horner's soundtrack to *Titanic* weren't bad enough, along comes news that they've pulled the plug on Collins Classics. One of the few labels committed to recording new British music, including now truncated editions of Britten, Birtwistle and Maxwell Davies, it also launched a few careers,

including that of pianist Joanna MacGregor.

At least there's still NMC. The new-music label has just won a Gramophone Award for its marvellously analytical recording of Birtwistle's legendarily opaque opera, *The Mask of Orpheus* (see below), and would surely have won another for its history-making premiere recording of the Elgar/Payne Symphony

No 3, were it not for the Machiavellian workings of the voting system.

As for MacGregor, next week she launches her own record label, SoundCircus, with three new releases including her own version of Cage's Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano and a debut disc by the acclaimed young jazz pianist Nikki Yeoh. How's that for girl power?

Going one better, another group of label-less artists, led by pianist Peter Donohoe and conductor David Atherton, have decided to bypass the record industry altogether by making themselves available on the Net. Dial up www.gmn.com and you can tune in to an ever-growing selection of specially recorded new live performances, or even compile your own custom-made

CD from tracks of your choice.

So, as the multinationals endlessly pillage and repackage their archives and gear themselves up to trying to sell us the same old albums all over again on DVD, many artists are beginning to discover that they can well do without the middlemen and this year's centenary of the gramophone may well prove to have been the end of an era.

Harrison Birtwistle: The Mask of Orpheus
BBC Symphony Orchestra/Andrew Davis, Martyn Brabbins and soloists
NMC D050 (3-CD set)

THOUGH IT was released at the end of 1997, the NMC premiere recording of Birtwistle's *The Mask of Orpheus*, has to be my choice for the year in which it had its full impact. No enthusiast of this composer's work will have wanted to be without this searing account of his *magnum*

opus. Those persuaded by the Hecklers and other anti-modernists that such music lacks the human dimensions of passion and poetry should also check it out. Though its challenges should not be underestimated, this opera incorporates music of utterly compelling beauty and sheer elemental force into its radical retellings of the myth of Orpheus.

KEITH POTTER

JS Bach: Goldberg Variations
Rosalyn Tureck (piano)
DG 459 599-2 (2 discs)

ROSALYN TURECK has devoted her 50-year career to JS Bach, and an anti-Romantic style of playing his music, whether on harpsichord or piano. Paradoxically, she remains a pianist in the grand Romantic tradition, and it is her special gift to project Bach's music LARGE that has made her unique. She was an

inspiration to the young Glenn Gould. For several years there had been no studio recordings by her, but last March, at 83, she recorded one of Bach's greatest sets of variations and showed all her old technical command, and a rich variety of imaginative response. Magnificent.

ADRIAN JACK

Wagner: Wesendonk-Lieder, Tristan und Isolde etc
Deutsche Symphony Orchestra/Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau/Julia Varady
Orfeo C 467 981 A

A POWERFUL antidote to the unpalatable squalling that so often passes for Wagnerian singing these days, Julia Varady invests Isolde's "Liebestod" with great tenderness: it is little wonder that Lorin Maazel thought her an ideal candidate for a 1999 revival of *Tristan und Isolde*.

ROB COWAN

Monteverdi Madrigals
Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda
Opus 111 OPS1961

WELSH NATIONAL Opera's staging of Monteverdi's *Poppea*, seen in London in March (BBC2 broadcast it over Christmas), showed how modern Monteverdi, opera's first great composer, remains. The modernity lay not only in David Alden's production, but also in Rinaldo Alessandrini's musical direction. Alessandrini's acute sense of drama underpins his Monteverdi

recordings, the latest of which superbly captures the work's bluesy lyricism and its extraordinary onomatopoeia: you can all but smell the horses, feel the characters' bruising punch-ups. Composers looking to renew opera would do well to put aside Wagnerian hubris, and turn instead to the subtle reticence of Monteverdi.

NICK KIMBERLEY

Katin takes care of business

A maestro mourns the power of money, while Rimsky-Korsakov offers some consolation

ON 13 DECEMBER, 1948, an 18-year-old boy gave a Wigmore recital which *The Daily Telegraph* hailed with decorous rapture: "Everything he did had a certain distinction. His Scarlatti was unhurried, discreet, and intimate, and in Mozart and Beethoven his tone often had a great loveliness."

On Sunday - 50 years to the day since that debut - Peter Katin will again play at the Wigmore, and with a very similar programme. A triumphant occasion? Of course, but also an uneasy one. For Katin fears that this concert may be his farewell: his 1999 diary is a barren landscape.

This sounds odd, coming from the man who only last week was Joan Bakewell's guest on Radio 3, whose records have consistently exhibited those qualities first identified in 1948, and whose reviews still routinely glow.

How can an artist of such calibre come to such an unhappy pass? The answer says Katin, is commercialism. "When your work dries up, you start getting panic attacks. If I thought there had been a falling-off in my playing, I'd call it a day, but I don't think it's falling off. There was always a mafia running the music world, and when I started my career, that mafia was musical. The mafia now

calling the shots derives its power not from musical expertise, but from money. I'm not alone in thinking this."

It's perhaps significant that what was once called the music world is now known as the music business: watching the most heavily promoted names hogging the publicity and notching up commensurate fees, you take Katin's point.

"Almost all the pianists playing at the Festival Hall charge around £7,000, whereas my fee is £2,000. Being cheap has become a stigma."

His bitterness is not directed at other pianists - he happily lists the up-and-coming players he admires - but he does deplore the way the art itself has changed. "If Fischer, Cortot, Gieseking, Rubinstein and Solomon were to figure in one season - as they regularly used to - people would be astonished at their diversity. Players are now enormously efficient, but they all tend to resemble each other, as do the orchestras. In the old days, you knew instantly if you were listening to a Russian one, or an American one, or an English one. Now you get this even international sound."

If Katin comes across as an edgy misfit, that's only the downside to the integrity you sense when you track him to his lair in a modest Croydon side-

street. The books and pictures indicate wide-ranging interests, but everything else suggests the rigorous pursuit of timeless pianistic goals.

The Steinway dates from 1900, and the Collard fortepiano, on which he records Chopin, from the 1830s. His life story reflects a similar rigour. The son of a Lithuanian-Jewish sign-painter, he was accepted as a student at the Royal Academy when he was only 12, but he dates his real musical awakening to three key encounters. "I decided to play for people I admired, and to go on doing so until one of them opened the door for me. I just wanted someone to help me change from being a rather silly boy

who played quite well, into being an artist."

Myra Hess was his first stop.

"For three hours she tore my playing to shreds, to the point where I felt ready to give up all thought of becoming a pianist."

His next encounter was with Clifford Curzon, who was less critical about his playing.

"I suddenly realised that he had opened that door. He taught me that every time you go on stage you must re-create the work you play: put them through the pride and fall of a tsar."

His third encounter was with Claudio Arrau, the Chilean virtuoso, who opened his eyes to art and architecture, and taught him the importance of not getting one-tracked. "And I began to understand that everything a musician learns will influence his playing."

What advice would Katin give his younger self now, if he came knocking at the door? He looks blank. "I really don't know. But I certainly wouldn't advise him to do the big competitions, if he wants to retain his individuality. How can you claim that one player is better than another? Either one is not an artist - or one is. And if one is, it is in one's own unique way."

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV may not have been a great composer,

SIGHT READINGS



MICHAEL CHURCH

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but his music has great charm, and it's good that this composer will herald the end of the Royal Opera as we know it, with his operatic fable, *The Golden Cockerel*, at Sadler's Wells.

To get a sense of what we may expect on 22 December, I look on the designer Anthony Baker and the director Tim Hopkins. Baker's set-designs are gracefully suggestive, as befits their intention to point up the timelessness of Rimsky's satire (the plot concerns the pride and fall of a tsar).

Hopkins is one of those directors who turns an interview into a piece of performance art, using the word "console" as poetic types brandish "quotidian", and steel-and-glass architects neglige their horrors with the aid of the term "nestle".

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ON THE AIR

BAYAN NORTHCOCK

AT PRESENT, Radio 3 music documentaries seem to fall into three categories: programmes about music, programmes around music, and programmes produced by Antony Pitts. Admittedly, the "around" category still appears in the ascendant in the wake of Nicholas Kenyon's controllership:

programmes such as *Sound Stories* in which more or less any old "theme" may be drummed up to link a selection of discs, provided all specific talk about the music itself is sedulously avoided.

True, there are also illuminating talks, discussions and documentaries on individual works,

composers, and so on - still intermittently to be heard, notably as interval items during the Proms. But amid the thousands of hours Radio 3 devotes per year to record miscellanies, not a single one is currently assigned to the detailed exploration of a selected work in the way that the much-loved Antony Hopkins used to do.

Among the network's younger producers, Pitts has shown he is perfectly capable of straightforward documentaries in both the "around" and "about" categories. But he is also a composer with a special

love for all manner of dizzying textual pile-ups and naughty harmonic contradictions. Where this creative ingenuity has fed back into his broadcast features, as in his production of Adrian Jack's *Chromatic Fantasy* in 1994, the resulting multi-tracked and cross-faded collage of music, speech and directional sound have proved some of the most intricate and evocative in recent radio. Where the same techniques invade his documentaries, the result can be more problematic.

As it sometimes has been in the sequence of three programmes considering rhythm, harmony and melody plus form in 20th century music, which Pitts has recently contributed to the Sunday evening series, *Settling The Score*, for *Sounding the Century*. Granted, the musical evolution of the past 100 years has proved so complex, it would require a series of Open University scopes and care justly to represent it. Pitts's alternative approach of sampling and cross-cutting at least offers the virtue of concentration. All the same, there were patches in the first two programmes so nifty in their multi-allusiveness that it was hard to imagine

that anyone with less than total recall of the century's music could keep up with the half of it.

So that last Sunday's more lucidly textured melody and form programme, devised by Julian Anderson, suggested a lesson well learnt. Nor were Pitts's ingenuities any less vivid; it was fascinating to hear the voice of old Joseph Taylor singing "Brigg Fair", recorded in his Lincolnshire workshop almost 100 years ago, gradually modulating into the harmonisations of Grainger and Delius, or birdsong slowly lowered to the same pitch as Messiaen's transcriptions.

Yet, among the recorded remarks of composers, from the venerable Elliott Carter to the rising young Thomas Adès, you remained tantalised by a richness and variety of ideas that there was no time to follow up - as when the late Morton Feldman raised the question of which composers were good at beginnings, and which better at endings. Beginnings, middles and ends: now there is a "theme", not just "around" or even "about" but "of", and which clearly explored in a series, could surely draw even a casual listener back to the music itself.

NEW FILMS

THE BOYS (18)

Director: Rowan Woods
Starring: David Wenham, Toni Collette, Lynette Curran
Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, oldest "boy" Brett Sprague (Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend (Collette), and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. Adapted from Gordon Graham's acclaimed stage-play, *The Boys* spotlights the flipside of life Down Under; with a stark social-realist drama circling gracefully around a horrific crime which is hinted at but never actually shown. Occasionally, its theatrical origins are too readily apparent, but Rowan Woods' stealthy handling and Wenham's menacing lead ensure that the interest seldom dwindles. Potent, predatory stuff.

West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema.

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

Director: Martin Campbell
Starring: Antonio Banderas, Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta Jones
The Zorro yarn resurrected. Martin "GoldenEye" Campbell's gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic go-dogger. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics justifies for purchase amid a riot of colourful duels and clattering action setpieces. It's old-fashioned and reliably entertaining. Anthony Hopkins and Catherine Zeta Jones bring a whiff of the valleys to their father-and-daughter co-star slots.

West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road.

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Director: Nancy Meckler
Starring: Lindsay Lohan, Natasha Richardson
The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue: re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heartwarming into a spry cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natasha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together. It's a film of sleek, clean surfaces, bright colours and neat knockout comedy. But a thick layer of syrup covers every inch.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea.

PLAYING GOD (18)

Director: Andy Wilson
Starring: David Duchovny, Timothy Hutton
Cracker director Wilson suffers a rude lesson in Hollywood politics with this glossy but garbled thriller about a junkie doctor (David Duchovny) embroiled with a gang of counterfeiters headed by a hammy Tim Hutton.

Essentially a star vehicle for Duchovny, *Playing God* nonetheless conspires to steer a most ill-disciplined course, swerving from grisly violence (cue jets of arterial blood) to po-faced character study (Duchovny wants his licence back) to surrealistic comedy (an encounter with a bunch of saintly bikers). Hutton and his cronies indulge in all manner of insipid gangster chat, but they look a limp and spindly bunch who would be hard pushed fighting their way out of a paper bag.

Duchovny and luminous co-star Angeline Jolie look on stupefied.

West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village Fulham Road.

Nathaniel Hulley

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero.

BABE: PI IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak, animalistic fairytale.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero.

BLADE (18)

A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous thriller about a New York vampire killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its flimsy pedigree.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End.

MULAN (U)

This Disney's animated feature has it all: a pro-active heroine who doesn't want to tend to a man or pet woodland animals; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's off-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister; plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature.

West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Screen on the Hill.

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

All the students at writer-director Dan Rosen's nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight-A grades to the row-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the *Scream* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks.

West End: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End.

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a film which ultimately tells a tale of independence triumphing over cruelty.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road.

THE END OF VIOLENCE (15)

Wim Wenders is back on form with this stylish and intelligent technico-noir about a Nasa plot to "end violence as we know it" through mass surveillance.

West End: Ritzy Cinema.

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman's cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life.

West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Haymarket.

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: Curzon Soho.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being, with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a sickly vein of bile, and, at the day's end, this is the making of the film: turning it into a bittersweet salute to the little man who makes a big difference.

West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Warner Village West End.

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Krabbe's first stab as a director focuses on the ebb and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers plus rising star Laura Fraser.

West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Screen on Baker Street.

LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Pantown Street, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Rio Cinema, Warner Village West End.

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West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Screen on the Hill.

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket.

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for huk-head swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical realists.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End.

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West End: Curzon Soho.

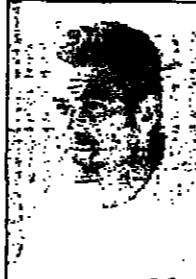
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THE FIVE BEST FILMS

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney (right) and Jennifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

**ANTZ** (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film – humour, indignation, emotional sympathy – driven by Peter Mullan's seedy, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

RONIN (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgård), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

Gary Cooper plays a visionary architect who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Ayn Rand novel. Patricia Neal shoulders opposite him.

ANTHONY QUINN

ANTHONY QUINN

RITA TAYLOR

RITA TAYLOR

PATRICK TAYLOR

PATRICK TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

LOVE UPON THE THRONE

Comedy Theatre
The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent. Hilarious and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

ANGELA CARTER CINDERELLA

Lyric, Hammersmith
A feast of silliness and visual magic, this has lashings of drag and double entendres, plus the best mice on a West End stage. To 9 Jan

MARTIN GUERRE

West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds
Gifted young Irish director Conall Morrison stages a second reworking of the troubled *Boublil*-Schonberg musical. Will it be third time lucky? To 13 Feb

THE BOY WHO FELL INTO A BOOK

Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayckbourn (right) – here wearing his children's dramatis hat. To 9 Jan

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford
Anthony Ward's splendid sets and Asian are the stars of the RSC's Christmas spectacular. To 27 Feb

PAUL TAYLOR

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

AUBREY BEARDSLEY

Victoria & Albert Museum
Displaying the short, glittering life of the aesthetic and illustrator, with his sinuous and florid line. Drawings, prints and posters. To 10 Jan

ROSEMARIE TROCKEL

Whitechapel Gallery
Influential German artist; includes a sculpture of a seal called *No one under the sun is more miserable than the man who has a fetish for a lady's slice and must make do with the whole woman*. To 7 Feb

CHRIS OFILI

Whitworth Gallery, Manchester
This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, and incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

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FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

3976-99.8MHz FM
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Mark Goodier. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles.

5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1

Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2

(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce: Classic hits, new chart breakers, love songs, the Headline Hunt and the PopMaster quiz. Call 0171 765 5682. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00

Ed Stewart: Entertainment news, a Brain Buster, the Friday final of the Accumulator Quiz and regular travel updates. 5.05 Des Lynam: Guests, sports news and music.

7.00 Hubert Gregg: Says 'Thanks for the Memory' and adds a few personal reminiscences. 7.30 Friday Night Is Music Night: Live from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. Edward Warren conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra, with guests the BBC Radio 2 Choristers of the Year Eloise Irving and James Fox. Including Howard Blake's fantasy 'The Snowman', narrated by Brian Kay. At 8.15, the interval item is performed by the Monteverdi Choir.

9.45 Wuthering Heights. 9.30 Listen to the Band. 10.00 David Jacobs. 10.30 Sheridan Morley.

12.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 6.00 Late Sharma.

RADIO 3

(90.2-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.

9.00 Masterworks.

10.30 Artist of the Week.

11.00 Sound Stories. See Pick of the Day.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Elliott Carter.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.

2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Music Restored.

4.45 Music Machine.

5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. On the

of Elliott Carter's birthday, Ensemble InterContemporain perform his Clarinet Concerto and a new piece composed by Philippe

PICK OF THE DAY

SOUND STORIES (11am R3), a week of playwrights who have inspired musicians ends with Bertolt Brecht, who may not have been much to look at ideologically or personally, but did provide Kurt Weill and Hanns Eisler with the material for some memorable music. Naturally, we get Lotte Lenya in *The Threepenny Opera* and *The Seven Deadly Sins*.

If that doesn't appeal, try Strictly Conventional (11am R4) in which Quentin Cooper meets the Association of British Investigators.

Bookclub (4pm R4) has A S Byatt (right) talking about her Booker Prize-winning novel, *Possession* – in which the biography of a Victorian poetaster has resonances in our own time.

ROBERT HANKS



Manouy plus a world premiere of a work by Pierre Boulez which includes three pianos, three harps and three percussion instruments. Introduced by Brian Morton. Alain Damiens (clarinet), Ensemble InterContemporain/David Robertson Carter: Clarinet Concerto.

Manouy: Fragments pour un portrait. Boulez: Sur incises (first performance).

9.25 Postscript. Four illustrated reflections on kitsch: 4. Tim Lott's book 'The Scent of Dried Roses' traces his working-class Southall background around the suicide of his mother. He describes the kitsch his generation has lived with.

9.45 Beethoven: Piano Sonata in F, Op 54. Alfred Brendel.

10.00 Hear and Now: More from the annual festival of new music in Huddersfield. Tonight, one of Arvo Part's most sustained and fervent choral works: the 'Canon of Repentance', performed by the voices for whom it was written – the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, conductor Tonu Kaljuste.

11.30 Punk Jazz.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS: Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Serial: Charles Dickens: Journalist.

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: Strictly Conventional. See Pick of the Day.

11.30 The Smart Couple.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Screen Test.

2.15 Afternoon Play: Showing Up.

3.00 NEWS: Making History.

3.30 Coffee - a Hellish Brew.

3.45 Feedback.

4.00 NEWS: Bookclub. See Pick of the Day.

4.30 The Message.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 True Lies.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.45 Front Row: Francine Stock takes the arts programme.

7.45 Star Waters. Part 20 by Anna Marie Di Mambro and Cally Phillips: Kate's birthday looms and Charlie has a proposal. Meanwhile, an encounter with the mysterious Viska has a profound effect on Douglas, and Frankie Callaghan has big plans for Joanna. With Ann Scott-Jones, Emma Currie and Liam Brennan. Director David Jackson Young.

8.00 NEWS: Any Questions?: Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Morpeth, Northumberland, by panellists including Dr Kenneth Calman, Alan Duncan MP and John Swinney MP of the SNP.

8.45 Letter from America: Alistair Cooke with another slice of Americana.

9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: The Grey Man. By Gill Adams. Betty

and John Wilkinson both live a lie. Their son Johnny is dying in California. John reluctantly goes out to bury him. When he arrives, he hides at the back in his old shabby clothes. He has to face Betty on his return. With James Bolam and Rachel Davies.

10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Spiderweb. By Penelope Lively, read by Stephenie Cole (5/10).

11.00 Late Tackle. Eleanor Oldroyd hosts the late-night sports chat show.

11.30 The Khan Dynasty.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Human Voices.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 World Service.

5.35 World News.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 Leisure Update.

5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

RADIO 4 LW (98kHz FM)

9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship.

12.00 - 12.44 News Headlines: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Tonight in Parliament. 12.30 - 7.30 Test Match Special.

RADIO 5 LIVE (693.9-700.6MHz FM)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight. Alan Green and his sporting guests look back at the week's stories and preview the weekend's action. Plus coverage of the night's Nationwide League Division One game between Bury and Sheffield United.

10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Papatalk. 11.00 Sport. 11.00 News.

11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM (1000-1015kHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly.

9.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto: Villa-Lobos: Guitar Concerto. John Williams. ECO/Daniel Barenboim. 3.00 Jamie Crick.

6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert: Pfitzner: Prelude to Act 1 (Palestrina). German Opera Orchestra, Berlin/Christian Thielemann. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 1 in C. Maurizio Pollini. Berlin PO/Claudio Abbado. Schubert: Symphony No 6 in C. DSB/Berlin PO/Daniel Barenboim. Ravel: Bolero. Berlin PO/Herbert von Karajan. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Marc Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (125.1-127.6MHz FM)

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams.

11.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Bobby Hain. 7.00 Wheels of Steel. 11.00 Janey Lee Grace.

2.00 - 6.00 Richard West.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)

1.00 Newdesk. 1.30 To Be Continued. 1.45 Poems by Post.

2.00 Newday. 2.30 People and Politics.

3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15

Sports Roundup. 3.30 Science in Action. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Weekend. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 Outlook. 5.55 - 6.00 Spotlight.

TALK RADIO (198kHz LW)

6.00 Bill O'Herlihy and Clare Carford. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Redburn. 4.00 Peter Deahey. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 9.00 Mike Allen. 2.00 - 8.00 Mike Dickin.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

WITH JUST over a week to go in the Onyx Grand Prix, there's still time for the three leaders, Mark Hebden on 190.2/200, Keith Arkell, 189.3, and Jim Plaskett, 189.3, to take part in some final skirmishes before Ragnarok at Islington next weekend. Rumour has it that one or more of them will be in action in Golders Green on Saturday and/or Nunhead on Sunday; and a perfect score – but only a perfect score – at either would certainly be invaluable.

The sheer volume of chess required by the Grand Prix is such that you couldn't expect, and indeed it would be counter-productive for, the leading players to put maximal effort into every game. They therefore generally use their "autopilots" against weaker opponents. Unfortunately, Jim Plaskett's "George" seems to have become a little jaded, for he dropped vital half-points against weaker opposition both at the Spectrum Clevedon Open in Bristol and at the 45th Hertfordshire Congress last Saturday. But he has continued to perform excellently on full throttle against more serious opposition.

This important victory at Hertfordshire was in the fourth round, when Plaskett had already conceded his draw – in the first round, to Stephen Peters from Aylesbury; but Arkell was still on course for a maximum.

Plaskett went on to win with 4.5/5 while Arkell was second on 4.

In the Leningrad Dutch, Black sacrifices structure – a weak e6 square – for activity. After Arkell attacked with 10 h4!, Black's structure was further compromised, but the fine pawn sacrifice 11... Ne4! created excellent white square play after Arkell took it. Instead, he should have played 16 Nab1! when if 16... Nxc3 17 Qd2! regains the

piece with advantage. 21... b5!

created still more play. In the diagram, if 28 Nx e7+ Kf7 29 Nb5 Bx d5

30 exd5 Ne3+ 31 Kg1 Nxd2 32 Rxd1 Kg8 33 f6 b4 34 Bd2 Rxd6 is winning.

31 dxe5 was desperate and Plaskett cleaned up easily. If 40 Rx d2 R e1+

41 Kg2 Rg1 would be mate.

White: Keith Arkell
Black: Jim Plaskett
Hertfordshire 1998
Leningrad Dutch

1 Nf3 d6 22 cxb5 Nf3+
2 d4 f5 23 Kg2 Nd4
3 b3 g6 24 Nc4 Nxc2
4 Bc2 Bg7 25 Nxa5 axb5

5 c4 Nf6 26 Nc6 Bxc3

6 Ne3 0-0 27 Bx c3 Rx a2 (see diagram)

7 d5 h6 28 Bd2 Bxe4+

8 d5 h6 29 Kg1 Kh7

9 Bg2 g5 30 Bc1 e6

11 Nd4 c5 31 dx e6 Bxc6

12 Ndb5 Qd8 32 Rx d6 Nd4

13 e3 Qa5 33 e7 Re8

14 0-0 a6 34 Be3 Nb3+

15 Na3 Ne4! 35 Kh1 Ne5+

16 Bxe4 fxe4 36 Kg1 Rx e7

